

Job Description

Post:	Bobath Speech & Language Therapist
Salary Range:	FTE: £42,000 - £48,000
Responsible to:	Clinical Lead
Accountable to:	The CEO
Working Hours:	Part-time, flexible, up to 24 hours per week, to be agreed

About us

We're the National Bobath Cerebral Palsy Centre, a charity dedicated to supporting people of all ages living with cerebral palsy and similar neurological conditions.

Our specialist treatment and training centre offers bespoke support from a team of Physio, Occupational and Speech and Language Therapists who focus almost exclusively on cerebral palsy.

Sometimes, it's the simple things that make a difference - playing with friends, dressing or making your own lunch. So, whatever a person's age or associated difficulties, we have the skills and knowledge to help them live their day-to-day life to the fullest.

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic Speech and Language Therapist to join us and deliver a fantastic service to our clients.

Role Summary

To work as part of the multi-disciplinary team providing specialised assessment and treatment for children, adolescents and young adults with cerebral palsy and allied neurological conditions in accordance with the Bobath concept.

To develop positive relationships and effective communication with children, adolescents and young adults, their families, carers, local therapists and other professionals to ensure effective intervention and sharing of expertise.

Key Responsibilities

Clinical

a) To comprehensively assess, analyse, and set treatment goals for children, adolescents and young adults, with cerebral palsy and other related complex neurological conditions, using a transdisciplinary Bobath approach to treatment and management, and contributing discipline specific skills as appropriate.

b) To develop and implement highly specialised and individualised treatment based on a sound knowledge of the Bobath concept and current evidence using advanced clinical reasoning skills.

c) To generate detailed, accurate and analytical reports of findings reflecting specialist analysis.

d) To plan individualised activity programmes in conjunction with the child/parent, including discussion and practice of activities. This is to be supported by written instruction, photographs, and/or videos.

- e) To evaluate clinical effectiveness and patient progress using standardised outcome measures, as appropriate, and adapting and modifying treatment accordingly.
- f) To manage a caseload, being professionally and legally accountable for all aspects of own work, without direct supervision. Access to advice and support from Bobath Clinical Specialists in own and other disciplines is available but clinical work is not routinely evaluated.
- g) To use a range of verbal and non verbal communication skills with patients (or clients), parents, carers, colleagues, local therapists and other professionals, to communicate sensitive and complex information in an understandable form regarding issues relating to diagnosis, progress and treatment. To recognise when to seek advice on these issues from senior colleagues.
- h) To demonstrate empathy with patients, families/carers and colleagues, ensuring that effective communication is achieved, particularly where barriers to understanding exist.
- i) To use a range of verbal and non verbal communication skills to gain co-operation and motivation of patients and carers to participate in therapy activities
- j) To ensure that the approach, progress and frequency of treatment are appropriate to individual needs and circumstances.
- k) To be responsible for designated equipment ensuring maintenance is carried out and reporting any defects.
- l) To adapt practice where possible to take account of cultural and diversity issues.

Professional

- a) To participate in the Bobath Centres' appraisal schemes, ensuring that objectives set reflect the service needs and strategic plans of the Centre as well as the individual's continuing professional development.
- b) To attend and lead case discussions and tutorials.
- c) To be responsible for maintaining own competency to practice through CPD activities and maintaining a portfolio which reflects personal development.
- d) To develop skills in giving short presentations about the Centre to non-Bobath trained visitors and about clinical issues to colleagues within in-service training sessions.
- e) To occasionally assist senior staff with demonstration and clinical observation on courses at basic and introductory level and for non-therapy staff.
- f) To provide peer support.
- g) To undertake as requested the collection of data for service audit or research projects.

Administration/Organisation

- a) To write and maintain accurate and comprehensive patient progress records and reports in line with the standards of practice of your professional body and those of the Bobath Centre.

b) To liaise with administrative staff concerning appointments and any equipment required for patients according to the policies of the Centre.

c) To comply with all local, national and professional Health and Safety, security and confidentiality policies and procedures, and ensure the safety of patients, colleagues and visitors at all times.

d) To attend and contribute to staff meetings.

e) To undertake limited organisational responsibility, such as organising tutorials or participating in project work.

Effort

a) Physical effort: the post holder will be expected to kneel, sit on heels, support patients while standing/walking, transfer patients, use hoists and other transfer equipment on a daily basis.

b) Mental effort: the post holder will be expected to concentrate during complex assessment/treatment sessions and ensure good communication with those patients with limited comprehensive/expressive communication skills and their carers.

c) Emotional effort: care of children and young adults with severe chronic neurological conditions, imparting information relating to limitations of function including communication, mobility and manipulation, which would impact on prognosis, dealing with patients and carers who may express feelings of depression, anger or apathy.

d) Working environment: daily exposure to bodily fluids and unpleasant smells and occasional exposure to unpleasant conditions.

Other duties

a) To fulfil any other duties required by the organisation commensurate with the role and grade.

b) To occasionally work and/or attend training days in locations other than the usual workplace.

Person Specification: Bobath Speech and Language Therapist

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications / Education	1. Recognised Professional Qualification/Degree or equivalent in Speech and Language Therapy 2. Health Professions Council registration 3. Member of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists 4. Post Graduate Dysphagia Training 5. Variety of courses relevant to paediatrics	1. Basic 8 week Paediatric Bobath Course (this will be provided if not already attended). 2. Advanced or other additional Bobath Course 3. MSc



Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimum of two and half years experience of working with children with cerebral palsy 2. Experience of using the Bobath Concept with children with cerebral palsy 3. Experience of working without direct supervision 4. Experience in general paediatrics 5. Experience of a wide variety of paediatric equipment 6. Evidence of continued professional development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience of leading in-service training for colleagues 2. Training / experience in specialist area within professional domain; e.g. Dysphagia Course, Augmentative Communication Course 3. Working with people with cerebral palsy of all ages
Knowledge & Skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In-depth knowledge of cerebral palsy and speech and language therapy related to this field including current research 2. High level of ability to perform accurate analysis and problem solving 3. High level of treatment skills for children with cerebral palsy 4. Highly developed and effective communication skills 5. Excellent report writing skills 6. Established knowledge of a broad range of assessment tools and outcome measures relevant to working with clients with cerebral palsy 7. Basic computer skills; Windows and Word 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good computing skills eg Excel, Powerpoint, photo packages 2. Teaching skills 3. Knowledge of research methodology
Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Able to prioritise and meet report deadlines 2. Able to keep accurate notes 3. Able to manage own caseload 4. Able to work as an effective transdisciplinary team member and contribute to a positive working environment 	