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**Homelessness Specialist Forensic Mental Health Practitioner**

### Person Specification

## Essential Criteria

* A minimum of two years’ experience as a mental health practitioner
* An appropriate mental health qualification and/or a postgraduate qualification in mental health
* Skills in undertaking detailed assessments of an individual’s mental health and social care needs
* An understanding of the issues, causes and solutions to homelessness
* Experience of planning and delivering clinical/service interventions to service users experiencing homelessness with mental health difficulties and/or personality disorders
* Experience and understanding of the needs of individuals who have accommodation needs in the criminal justice system
* The ability to work with a diverse range of service users
* The ability to form effective inter-agency relationships, e.g. health, probation, social services etc.
* A good understanding of Housing Law and the Welfare Benefits Systems.
* The ability to develop policy and good practice guidelines in accordance with the needs of the service
* The ability to contribute to the development and promotion of the service and the promotion of Together
* The ability to work independently in an autonomous and self-motivated manner
* Excellent communication skills
* The ability to work where required in a custodial setting
* The ability to understand security systems and protocols
* Values in line with those held by Together
* Ability to reflect on clinical practice and learn from experiences
* Commitment to own professional development
* Professional health registration (desirable)

Further areas of ability and experience to support your application and to be demonstrated at interview:

* An understanding of issues and risks commonly faced by individuals experiencing homelessness
* An understanding of the clinical and social care needs of young people and adults, and those from minority ethnic groups, who present with mental health problems
* An understanding of mental health, personality disorder and substance misuse
* An understanding of risk assessment and management strategies
* An understanding of the criminal justice system
* An understanding of mental health legislation, particularly the Mental Health Act 1983 and related contemporary policy issues
* An understanding of psychiatric symptomatology and treatment interventions
* An understanding of psychiatric service provision
* Ability to formulate information and make defensible decisions
* Administrative and report writing skills
* An understanding of the relevance of Equal Opportunities (discrimination) issues in mental health work and the criminal justice system
* Ability to work well in a team
* Ability to build and maintain effective professional networks
* Skills in training and consultancy work