*Note: This template forms part of a suite of guidance documents, tools and templates developed by the IPS Grow consortium. Further information can be found at* [www.ipsgrow.org.uk](http://www.ipsgrow.org.uk)*. Please ensure you adapt this document fully to comply with local requirements. This tool was last updated July 2019.*

**IPS Employment Specialist**

Grade or equivalent: [Band 5 preferably]

Location: [Add location]

Responsible to: [To Add]

Accountable to: [To Add]

**Role Purpose:**

You will work with clients (managing a caseload) who have mental health support needs, to assist them in securing sustainable paid employment in line with their preferences. You will deliver the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) approach (for which training will be given); providing person centred advice and guidance to clients, whilst building positive relationships with local employers to enable clients to move into suitable employment.

You will work as part of a community mental health team, maintaining positive and integrated relationships, fostering a holistic approach to recovery through employment.

**Responsibilities:**

**Core Responsibilities:**

* Manage a caseload of around 20 clients who have mental health support needs who are motivated to start/return to work.
* Deliver the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) approach for which training will be given.
* Meet and support clients to understand their key skills, aspirations and goals through completing a Vocational Profile and produce an Action Plan to help them obtain and sustain competitive employment. This includes support with their job search, CV production, application forms, interview techniques and career development.
* Assess client’s support needs related to work which may include benefits/welfare advice, disclosure of mental health symptoms etc, and provide support & guidance.
* Attend weekly clinical team meetings as an embedded IPS practitioner.
* Source job opportunities for clients through tailored job search and regular contact with local employers to explore hidden as well as advertised employment opportunities.
* Provide education and support to employers, as agreed with the individual, which may include negotiating adjustments, return to work strategy and on-going contact with the employer to ensure job retention.
* Build relationships with colleagues in clinical teams to engage and generate referrals and create collaborative working partnerships with clinical staff (promoting employment as a positive intervention in the recovery journey).
* Once employment has been secured continue to provide quality service through conducting regular visits, effective monitoring and in-work support to clients and employers to help sustain employment.

**Relationship Management:**

Establish positive and integrated relationships with clinical teams, employers and other service providers. This includes:

* To build and maintain employer relationships and maintain employer engagement database.
* Arrange regular meetings with clients to monitor and review progress pre and post-employment.
* Spend time getting to know local employers, in order to negotiate job opportunities that meet each individual’s strengths, needs, abilities and preferences.
* To challenge inequalities experienced by clients and address existing discrimination, whilst ensuring a process of learning for the organisation
* Work with employers to promote the service, identify job opportunities and ensure appropriate strategies are in place to reduce barriers in the work place – this can include exploring ‘job carving’ i.e. carving small slices of work from the duties other staff do not have time to do.
* To develop effective working relationships with a range of external agencies who can help individuals to achieve their employment goals. This may include local colleges and training providers.

**Other:**

* To adhere to administrative and data capture protocols which record the progress of individuals, and to keep accurate and complete records of casework.
* To work independently, reliably and deliver consistently to deliver effective IPS practice.
* Ensure that effective monitoring and evaluation systems are adhered to and keep abreast of changing practice within vocational rehabilitation.
* To co-produce service development with service users where possible.
* To collect employment recovery stories from people accessing the service.
* Ensure that all relevant policies are implemented such as information governance, safeguarding etc.
* Partake in continuous learning about mental health conditions, their impact and how they can be managed and undertake mandatory training as required.
* Work flexible hours as required.

**Stakeholders:**

Team Leader, Service Managers, HR, Occupational Health, Clinical Teams, User Groups, Voluntary Sector and Trust Training and Supported Employment Schemes, Local Colleges, Local Employment Service Disability Service Teams, Local Employers and other NHS User Employment Schemes.

**Person Specification**

**Education and Qualification**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications and training** | * Educated to a degree level or equivalent experience | * Trained in IPS approach * Level 3 Diploma in Employability Services Sector Qualification * QCF in Advice & Guidance (Level 3) |
| **Experience** | * Experience/understanding of working with people with mental health support needs, or a similar client group within health, social services or the voluntary sector * Experience of working with someone on a one-to-one basis * Experience of managing multiple tasks at any one time * Experience of working assertively to influence decision makers | * Experience of supporting people to obtain or keep work * Experience of working within mental health services * Own personal lived experience of recovery from mental health difficulties * Previous experience of delivering a service using the IPS model is a bonus * Proven experience of meeting and exceeding outcomes and targets |
| **Knowledge** | * An understanding of the employment needs, and challenges faced by people who experience mental health difficulties * Developing a knowledge of a broad range of occupations and jobs * Able to use IT and tools such as MS Word, PowerPoint and Excel | * Knowledge of the benefits agency and all disability/ employment related benefits |
| **Skills** | * Good motivational, communication and listening skills * Outstanding interpersonal skills and ability to build rapport with a range of people * Good organisational ability * Natural ability to build close, trusting and productive relationships with people * Team orientated and works collaboratively within a mixed-disciplinary team * Ability to work independently and use initiative to develop and promote a service | |
| **Personal qualities** | * Non-judgemental and trustworthy * Empathy with the needs of those with mental health support needs * Passion and drive to make a positive difference to people's lives * Highly motivated with a genuine belief that someone with a mental health condition can find paid employment * Resilient and tenacious to not give up despite setbacks and frustrations * Self-aware of personal strengths and weaknesses and actively invest in personal and professional development * Willingness to travel within the region | |

**Why Join us?**

Together we are looking to create growth and opportunity for individuals with mental health conditions and build a better and all-inclusive working world. We work collaboratively to make a real impact in transforming someone’s life. We love what we do and feel we offer an incredibly rewarding career with an excellent training and development plan, a generous amount of annual leave and pension scheme.

[Include Trust/Organisation specific supplementary information in relation to Infection Control, Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities, Working Time Regulations, Conditions of Employment etc]

To apply for this post, please complete the application form and email it back to <hiring manager email address>. Should you have any queries about the role, please email <departmental email address>.

**The closing date for receipt of applications is [insert date]. Regrettably, we are unable to accept any late applications.**