



**Post Title: Vision Rehabilitation Specialist**

**Salary: £33,977.84 - £35,246.40**

**Hours of work: 37 hours per week**

**Location: Home based with regular travel across Flintshire and Wrexham, with the requirement to work from the Council Offices and Vision Support offices on occasion**

Qualification required – Honours Degree or Dip. H. E./Foundation Degree in Rehabilitation Studies (Visual Impairment) or equivalent.

### **Job Purpose**

To identify, deliver and evaluate professional rehabilitation interventions to vision impaired people to enhance their skills and confidence to maximise their independence.

To assess and provide support plans to help people at risk from harm or becoming dependent on others due to their sight loss.

To act as an advocate for visually impaired people and the organisation to help promote accessible services; equality; social integration and understanding of the impact of sight loss.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- **Assessment** - To undertake specialist visual impairment assessments with the visually impaired person to identify their needs and aspirations to promote independent living.

- **Rehabilitation and service provision** - To plan, implement, evaluate and review rehabilitative services to the visually impaired person aimed at maximising and maintaining independence, safety, dignity and choice. Rehabilitation may include, but not be restricted to:
  - Daily Living Skills – to provide Daily Living Skills training; to include the teaching of new skills or adapted practice for all aspects of daily living, home management, employment and leisure.
  - Communication Skills – To provide communication training; to include all forms of access to communication including but not limited to print, Braille, Moon, audio description, ICT, telephones, Deafblind manual and block alphabet.
  - Mobility training – To develop planned programmes of training to develop independence in indoor and outdoor mobility environments, including training in guiding skills, pre-cane, long cane, orientation (including specialist equipment) and route planning techniques.
  - Low vision - To provide low vision training/therapy in coordination with local NHS low vision services that helps individuals make the best use of functional vision, magnifiers, lighting and other low vision aids.
- To work with visually impaired people who have additional complex needs such as dual sensory loss, learning, physical and mental health disabilities in recognition of the cumulative effect of additional disabilities. To liaise with other specialist workers as necessary.
- To assess and recommend minor works of adaptation as highlighted in the specialist visual impairment assessment and liaise with all relevant parties in line with employer's budget and policies.

- To work within a safeguarding framework to identify, manage and where possible reduce risk to visually impaired people, family, carers, communities, self and colleagues.
- To understand the psychological aspects of sight loss and provide emotional support as part of the rehabilitation process to the individual, their family and carers.
- To signpost and or refer individuals to partners in local authority, health service, education service, welfare and employment services, voluntary sector and other community services.
- To support visually impaired people to represent their culture, needs, views and circumstances where appropriate.
- To enable the Local Authority to maintain the Local Authority's Partially Sighted/Sight Impaired and Blind/Severely Sight Impaired Registers.

## **Personal and Professional Development**

To practice in accordance with the National Occupational Standards for Specialist Sensory Workers.

To manage and be accountable for, with supervision and managerial support, your own practice within your organisation, including maintaining professional development

To maintain an up-to-date knowledge and understanding of legislation (including community care legislation), statutory codes, standards, framework and guidance relevant to rehabilitation practice and related fields.

To maintain a current working knowledge of the safe use of a wide range of specialist equipment.

To maintain an up-to-date knowledge of eye conditions and treatments, knowledge of the practical application of teaching, and learning theories.

To prepare for, and participate in, regular technical and managerial supervision and annual performance from appropriately qualified supervisors.

To supervise, mentor and support student Rehabilitation Officers on placement where appropriate.

To develop and maintain links with primary and secondary care and public health services particularly Ophthalmology, Optometry practices and GP practices.

## **Policies and Procedures**

To ensure that written and electronic records and reports are maintained in accordance with the employer's policies and procedures and the Data Protection Act 1998.

To ensure compliance with all policies and procedures concerning confidentiality including appropriate lawful disclosure in line with legal and policy frameworks.

To work with multi-disciplinary, multi-organisational teams, networks and systems.

To assist in the management of a waiting list where appropriate.

To provide information and advice regarding visual impairment to all departments of the employing agency.

To provide specialist information and advice to employers regarding communication/contact with visually impaired people in their preferred formats in line with the Equality Act.

To be accountable for and take responsibility for own safety and that of service users.

To manage and be accountable for own work and contribute to the management of services and resources.

To manage, store and share records and reports in line with employer's policies and procedures.

To abide by the principles and practices of the employer's equal opportunities policy.

To carry out Health and Safety responsibilities in accordance with the employer's policies.

To prepare for, and contribute to, decision making forums such as case conferences.

To work as part of a team, and where appropriate, contribute to team development and planning.

### **Person Specification**

(All attributes and skills are essential unless otherwise specified)

Fluent Welsh speaker (desirable).

Ability to develop clear plans and communicate these to service users and other staff.

Ability to delegate tasks to other staff where appropriate (desirable).

Recognised rehabilitation work qualification (or currently working towards it)

Proven experience of performing rehabilitation assessments with visually impaired people and providing mobility, communication and daily living skills training.

Working knowledge of good practice relating to safeguarding.

Ability to deliver training/advice sessions to individuals or groups of service users, carers and other organisations.

Knowledge of Health and Safety legislation, including lone worker policies.

Ability to travel and work in all areas of Flintshire and Wrexham.

Good knowledge of other related agencies (desirable).

Strong personal organisation/time management.

Proven track record of maintaining and updating personal records for clients.

Ability to record service management statistics.

Be calm and deal sensitively with people and be open minded to all cultures and ways of life.

Work on own initiative, whilst exercising discretion and confidentiality.

Be a team player.

Be willing to work flexibly (outlook, work hours, work location).

Able to implement programmes in partnership with other agencies.

Good personal presentation skills, and oral/written communication skills.