



Associate Therapist

Candidate Pack





Dorset Parent Infant Partnership are recruiting

We need you to help Families Flourish



Are you passionate about the importance of early relationships?

Do you have a qualification and experience of working with parents and babies?

You could be the person we are looking for

We are helping families to flourish in Dorset and surrounding areas, by providing parent infant relationship services from conception to age two that include, Breastfeeding support, Health visitor lead peer support groups, Infant massage, pre & post birth coaching for Dads, as well as the parent infant psychotherapy that remains central to our work.

Established in 2017 by founder and CEO Viv Allen to fulfil a local need for parents and infants who are struggling to form safe, secure relationships. Viv says “This is an exciting phase in our development. We have built up a robust team of specialists and secured the funding to run these services. In 2020 we saw double the number of families as in 2019 and our expectation is that this will continue to grow. We have listened to our beneficiaries and can now provide a range of services that they have asked for.”





DorPIP Introduction

Dorset Parent Infant Partnership, established in 2017, is an established and rapidly growing charity specialising in the emotional needs of parents, pre and post birth and their babies during their first two years of life. Therapists are drawn from a variety of clinical backgrounds and have specialist knowledge and understanding of infant mental health and attachment theory. The aim of therapy is to support parents who are experiencing difficulties with their baby and to facilitate parent-infant relationships which, in some cases, will include working with other carers within the family.



The work requires flexibility, pragmatism, and creativity. The therapist is required to provide support or interventions which match the need of the client. **Treatment may be short or longer term but the average number of sessions per client is eight.**

The treatment approach required may vary and it would be an advantage to be familiar with several different approaches to interventions with parents and infants.

This post offers an exceptional opportunity to work within a team of therapists and to assist in extending the service in Dorset, working as part of a new project. This person will need to be passionate about promoting infant mental health and contribute to the vision and aims of DorPIP. They will need to collaborate and work very closely with the Clinical Lead, CEO and the other therapists in the team whilst meeting the needs of our clients. An important aspect of this role is being able to contribute and work to foster relationships with midwives, health visitors, Children's Centres, GPs, relevant voluntary organisations, and Early Years Practitioners, to generate referrals that are appropriate for parent infant therapy



ASSOCIATE THERAPIST

Purpose of the Role

To contribute to positive outcomes for babies from pregnancy to 2 years of age by:

- Assessing the needs of parents and babies referred into the service and their suitability to engage with a range of individual or group therapeutic interventions
- Providing therapeutic support for parents and babies who are experiencing difficulties in their relationship, in understanding their baby's needs and finding the early stages of parenting a challenge
- Providing consultation and training to other professionals involved in supporting parents and babies

Line Management Responsibilities

- You will report to the CEO and Founder and receive clinical leadership and supervision from the Clinical Lead
- There are no direct reports into this role

Main Responsibilities

- To assess the needs of parents and babies referred into the service by talking to parents, observing parents and babies and gathering information from professionals who know the family
- To decide if therapy and what type of therapy will be effective
- To liaise with wider services where other forms of intervention focussed on the relationship between parents and babies are identified as being the most suitable approach
- To deliver and support parents and babies using the agreed individual and group parent-infant therapeutic interventions
- To use the agreed clinical and operational measures to monitor and evaluate progress
- To work in line with DorPIP policies and procedures
- To ensure safe clinical practice with due regard to DorPIP and local authority safeguarding children and safeguarding vulnerable adults policies and procedures
- To keep accurate case files to monitor the progress of families and evidence the impact of the work and outcomes achieved
- Ensure that professional development needs are identified and that activities are undertaken including appropriate clinical supervision
- To contribute to the training and consultation of wider services



Experience, Knowledge and Skills

- Degree in a therapeutic qualification (or comparable), e.g. Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, Clinical Psychologist, Social Worker, CPN, Midwife, Health Visitor, Counsellor
- Registered with a relevant professional body e.g. HCPC, BACP, UKCP, ACP, SWE
- Experience of working with adults and babies in a range of settings and contexts
- Working online via video or telephone call
- Experience of providing therapy with families.
- Understanding of child development, attachment issues, child protection and impact of ACE's on babies
- Able to use supervision effectively and to develop reflective practice
- Share the behaviours/values/aims/objectives of Dorset Parent Infant Partnership

Personal Qualities

- A great advocate of the charity, someone with the ability to promote DorPIP by being the public face of the charity
- Excellent interpersonal skills to build relationships with a wide range of people
- A rapid learner so as to quickly understand the nature of the charity, its services and aims
- A creative, flexible and strategic thinker
- High levels of resilience
- A relationship builder with high levels of emotional intelligence
- Authentic and passionate about the cause
- Approachable and positive in a challenging environment

Health and Safety Roles & Responsibilities

Employees, associate workers and volunteers have a statutory duty to take reasonable care of themselves and others who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work. Employees, associate workers and volunteers must also comply with DorPIP's health and safety arrangements.

Additional Duties

It is in the nature of the work of DorPIP that tasks and responsibilities are in many circumstances unpredictable and varied. All staff and associates are therefore expected to undertake work which may not be specifically covered in the job description. These additional duties will be compatible with the regular tasks and duties.



Reward, benefits, terms and conditions

Remuneration: £20 per hour

Hours: 8 hours per week. Due to the varied nature of the duties, a flexible approach will be required and will include evenings and weekends. Time off in lieu may be taken following agreement of the line manager. We are very proud to be a flexible employer and therefore part time applicants, job shares and term time only applications are very welcome. Please feel free to discuss any flexible working requests at interview

Place of work: This post is based from home as therapeutic sessions are delivered online. There may be an expectation in the future to visit regional Children Centre's

Length of Contract: This role is fixed term for a year initially

Holiday entitlement: Unpaid holiday to be agreed in advanced with manager and clients

Probationary Period: There is a 3months probationary period for this position

Car allowance: 45p mileage can be claimed for any travel due to DorPIP business

Period of notice: One months' notice from either the associate or the organisation is required.

Sick Pay: NA