



ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title: Volunteer Family Session Cook
Responsible to: Director of Therapy
Location: Based in Maidstone, Mid-Kent or North Kent
Hours: A regular 4.5 hour session per week
Age requirement: 18

Background:

Dandelion Time transforms the lives of traumatised children in Kent. Our therapeutic approach is family based, embedded in nature with a range of activities that engage head, heart, and hands. This nurturing farm environment allows children to build self-belief, strengthen relationships and develop the skills and aspirations for a brighter future.

Role Outline:

The purpose of this role is to support the Session Caseworkers in the delivery of multi-family therapeutic sessions, by preparing or assisting in the preparation of meals / snacks to be shared within the group. This is one of the activities offered to our families and a key element of the session.

Key Responsibilities

- To attend pre-session briefing, lay out cooking equipment and ingredients needed for the session.
- To follow all instructions given by the Session Leader/Family Caseworkers during the pre- session briefing.
- To work alongside session staff, volunteers and attending families in assisting (when necessary) with the preparation of ingredients and cooking meals to be shared before the end of the family session.
- To help create simple, healthy, nutritious, mostly vegetarian meals from ingredients including fresh vegetables from the DT gardens.
- To bake bread and cakes (low sugar), prepared with, or by, the families.
- To lay tables, set out meals and share in serving food for attendees.

- To clear up and clean the table and kitchen after the session.
- To clear up and manage food waste to compost facility or bins.
- To leave kitchen prepared for following sessions.
- To check stock levels of basic food items (eg baking ingredients) and list those items that need replenishing, passing list to Case Worker/ Facilities Coordinator.
- To maintain the highest standards of food safety and ensure all food safety and hygiene procedures are followed.
- To complete the online weekly shop for family sessions on a rota basis using the information from the Dandelion Time whats app community.
- Monitor the store cupboards to avoid over-ordering.
- Consider the use of home grown produce available and its use to avoid waste.

Skills and Competencies

- Experience of cooking for large groups of people
- An ability to adapt recipes according to the availability of ingredients
- Excellent time management to ensure meals are ready during each family session
- Flexibility and a 'can-do' attitude as plans may change
- Experience of cooking with children
- A kind, non-judgmental approach and a sensitivity to the issues that impact the behaviour of children
- Patience and understanding of the families we work with
- Honest, trustworthy and reliable and a commitment to the role
- An understanding of health, safety and security requirements relating to the role
- Ability to work well as part of a team or under own initiative
- Good communication skills and ability to interact with a wide variety of people
- Commitment and understanding of Dandelion Time's values

Team working

- Keep up to date with and implement Dandelion Time policies and procedures attending mandatory training when required
- Maintain a sensitive and professional approach towards colleagues and our vulnerable families, mindful of confidentiality and anti-discriminatory practices
- Abide by health and safety guidelines and share responsibility for own safety and that of colleagues and clients
- To undertake any other relevant duties as required to ensure the effective provision of Dandelion Time objectives

Other requirements

Dandelion Time require all staff and volunteers to have a current Enhanced DBS check (organised by the Volunteer Coordinator).

The role will require the completion of a number of mandatory online training courses including Safeguarding Children (Levels 1 & 2), repeated annually and the food hygiene and safety online course: Food Safety and Hygiene for Catering (Level 2) V3.0 repeated every two years.

The post holder will be required to attend up to 3 days of mandatory training per year and team meetings. These may be outside of normal volunteer pattern.

This role description will be reviewed from time to time and may be updated depending on the changing needs of the organisation.