



St Augustine's Centre is looking for a

Specialist Mental Health Worker
2 year fixed term

to start in February/March 2023
15 hours per week

Who are we?

St. Augustine's Centre in Halifax has been working with diverse communities for over 50 years and has become Calderdale's specialist support centre for people seeking asylum and with refugee status. Our 18 staff and 180 volunteers support a community of 800+ individuals and families from 67 countries who are now based in Calderdale. Most live in Park Ward, where we are based.

We offer specialist advice on immigration and asylum support, and one-to-one support with welfare, housing, health and access to wider services. We provide hot meals, English-language classes, a 'free shop', sports, arts, social and wellbeing activities, trips, events and volunteering opportunities. We run a befriending and integration service and provide awareness-building talks for schools and organisations. As a core member of *Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary*, we want to share stories and build awareness about human rights, advocating and campaigning locally and nationally.

You can get a good flavour of our work through our website and social media:

- <https://www.staugustinescentrehalifax.org.uk>
- [Twitter / Facebook](#)
- [Annual Report](#)

Specialist Mental Health Worker

It has long been an ambition of ours to bring someone into the team with specialist mental health experience and relevant qualifications. Some of our centre members have experienced trauma and as a team we could benefit from having someone alongside us who is expertly able to assess and respond to people presenting thus, and refer into wider services.

After gaining funding through Healthy Minds and the Lloyds Bank Signature Projects, we have the exciting opportunity to employ a qualified, specialist mental health worker for two years, with a view to extending the role if it makes a difference to our community and further funding is found.

In a nutshell, the purpose of this new role is to identify and support the mental health needs of St Augustine's centre members (asylum seekers and refugees), including carrying out mental health assessments and providing short- to medium-term mental health support, referrals and signposting. Crucially, the role will involve liaising and developing close working links with relevant organisations to ensure appropriate assessments and referrals are undertaken.

As this is a new role, we are looking for someone who can – with support from the Senior Caseworker (Health) - set up this new service and the processes within it.

We are looking for someone who has experience of working with statutory and voluntary mental health providers, as well as working with people to support and improve individual mental health. You must be passionate about our work with people seeking sanctuary and believe, like us, that by working collaboratively with partners and people with lived experience of the asylum process we can make important (sometimes life-changing) shifts for people facing challenging issues.

We are also looking for someone who is great at communicating with a wide range of people, as well as being IT literate, and able to use a CRM system to record work and create reports for monitoring and demonstrating improvement.

This is a chance to work with a fantastic staff team and wider community of people. We will provide on the job support and additional training as required. You will be line managed by Laurence, our senior caseworker for health.

Key information about the job

- 2- year fixed term contract.
- 15 hours / 2 days a week to start in February/March '23. Hours can be worked flexibly over 2 or 3 days by negotiation.
- £15 per hour which is equivalent to an annual salary of £29,250 (£11,700 in real terms)
- Equivalent of 7 weeks' holiday *per annum* (including bank holidays), i.e. 14 days a year pro rata.
- 3-month probationary period.
- Clinical supervision.

Interested?

Take a good look at the full Job Description and Person Specification below.

How to apply: Please write us a letter of application, setting out on no more than 3 sides of A4 the following:

- 1) why you want to work with the St Augustine's team
- 2) what you bring to the role
- 3) how your experience, knowledge and skills fit the role and person specification
- 4) two referees

Submit your letter, along with your CV, to us via email:

laurence.larroche@staugustinescentrehalifax.org.uk by **5pm Tuesday 10th January '23.**

You will be notified if you have been shortlisted for an interview by **5pm Friday 13th January '23.**

Interviews will take place in person on **Thursday 19th January '23.**

The job description below is an overview of the type of work the successful candidate will undertake and is not an exhaustive list. We will be shortlisting based on what qualities, skills and experience you bring to the role, outlined in the person specification.

St Augustine's is committed to equality of opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

We are an inclusive employer. We value difference and recruit by merit on the basis of fair and open competition. We welcome candidates from a range of different backgrounds.

Questions? If you have any questions please contact Laurence Larroche, Senior Caseworker (Health) 07756 262024 or by email laurence.larroche@staugustinescentrehalifax.org.uk

Specialist Mental Health Worker -

Job Description

Employment Status	2 years fixed term	Hours per week	15
Salary	£15 per hour	Holiday Entitlement	14 days a year including bank holidays (equivalent to 7 weeks a year)
Line Manager	Senior Caseworker for Health	Responsibility for:	No one

Main Objectives

- Promote the mental well-being of people using St Augustine's, putting them and their needs first.

Key Responsibilities

Work directly with centre members and refer to wider services

- Set up and conduct mental health assessments of centre members in line with relevant NICE guidance and local practice, taking into account the high levels of trauma, stress and anxiety.
- Assess and support centre members presenting with acute or emergency mental health problems (crisis management).
- Raise safeguarding concerns where relevant with St Augustine's Safeguarding Officer in line with policies and procedures.
- Where needed, develop a crisis risk management plan and incident reporting
- Make appropriate referrals to and from statutory and voluntary mental health services; follow up on those referrals.
- Keep in contact and build relationships with people presenting with acute mental health issues on a one-to-one basis as they wait for and access specialist mental health services, to ensure they are supported throughout.
- Refer and encourage centre members you are working with into wider wellbeing provision at St Augustine's and work with the wider staff team to ensure they are appropriately supported.
- Gather centre members' stories of their experiences of using mental health services, good and bad, collate these and use to advocate for changes in services.
- Consider setting up / designing / commissioning specific group or one-to-one sessions for centre members around wellbeing for mental health if needed.

Develop partnerships with external mental health providers

- Develop referral procedures to and from statutory and voluntary mental health services.
- Advocate for change within external mental health services where needed.
- Attend appropriate health-related meetings to share the output of this work.

Administration

- Utilise the Lamplight CRM system to record all transactions with centre members.
- Ensure data is collected appropriately and use it to assist decision-making, service development and to generate reports.

- Work with Support Team staff and volunteers to identify any trends in mental health casework need, adapting internal services where needed.

Team member of St Augustine's

- Where possible, attend weekly team meetings and annual away days.
- Attend monthly supervision meetings with the Senior Caseworker (Health).
- Maintain confidentiality and treat sensitive issues with appropriate tact and diplomacy. Work in accordance with data protection legislation and processes.
- Promote St Augustine Centre's stated values, and ensure policies, procedures and codes of conduct are reflected in daily practice, particularly health and safety and safeguarding.
- Undertake training (mandatory and optional) and utilise the clinical supervision offer

Specialist Mental Health Worker - Person Specification

<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
Areas of Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience of working with people with mental health issues - Experience of a busy working environment - Experience of working in a front-line role in the statutory or voluntary sector - Experience of working with people who speak little or no English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental health nursing background - Experience of the asylum system - Experience of working with people seeking sanctuary - Experience of using a CRM system to capture and report on data
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to work sensitively, confidentially and empathically with people - Excellent communicator - Strong organisational skills - Excellent IT skills and ability to use different software platforms (i.e. Microsoft Office, Teams, WhatsApp, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge of the Calderdale health system
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bachelor's degree in mental health nursing, counselling, or other relevant qualification in mental health 	<p>Relevant training, for example self-harm and suicide awareness & prevention training Post graduate qualification in Mental Health Practice, counselling, Psychology or related field</p>
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supportive of the values of St. Augustine's and a strong commitment to equality - Willing to understand the specific challenges and needs of people seeking asylum and refugees - Motivated and hard-working - Approachable, prepared to listen to others' point of view, patient, flexible, open to ideas and reliable - Good team player - Willing to undertake training as required - Must undertake an enhanced DBS check. 	