



# WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

Please have a read through the following information along with the Job Description and Person Specification included below – Think about whether joining our great team is right for you!!

# ABOUT US

Watford Mencap is a charity providing high quality social care services and support to people with learning disabilities and their families, in South West Hertfordshire. We enable people with learning disabilities and their families to make the most of life, to enjoy choice and control over their own lives, enabling them to fulfill their life ambitions. We are an independent charity affiliated to Royal Mencap and are self-funding.

We have worked hard to make our services efficient and really focused on the person. We have a strong business model that is sustainable and diverse. Our work has expanded and we are trying new things and ideas across the entire organisation, while keeping everything we do focused on meeting the diverse needs of the people we support. We currently employ 140 staff, have over 60 volunteers and provide support and services to over 500 people with learning disabilities and their families.

This is an exciting time to be joining the Charity and you will play an important role, working collaboratively with the people we support, their families and friends, as well as other social and health care professionals.

Working as a Playworker in our Children and Young People’s Service is varied, rewarding and challenging. It offers you the opportunity to help create a great service that meets the needs of the people you and the team support, as our service develops and people’s needs change.

As an employer, we have achieved Investors in People accreditation and provide employees with access to a full range of professional and personal development opportunities. This includes induction and training programmes, recognised qualifications, regular supervision meetings and an annual appraisal, as well as coaching and mentoring. We value our workers and offer excellent terms and conditions of employment; a range of staff benefits; as well as a competitive salary. In 2018 we were very proud to be awarded the most innovative care provider in Herts by Hertfordshire Care Providers Association.

**OUR VALUES**

We are **INCLUSIVE.** People with learning disabilities are at the heart of everything we do.

We are **RESPECTFUL**. We work in a person centred way, whilst listening to the views of all.

We are **WELCOMING**. We are approachable and value all.

We are **PROGRESSIVE**. We promote learning to support everyone to achieve their potential.

We are **CHALLENGING**. Through our work we will push the boundaries for individuals, organisations and society.

# Job Description

# ABOUT THE ROLE

**Playworker, Children and Young People’s Service**



You will be an important part of a team providing a large range of services for Children and Young People aged 0 - 25 with special educational needs. You will assist the Manager and the team to maintain standards set by Ofsted and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC).

This rewarding and varied role involves working with the Manager, Co-ordinators and Support Workers to plan and deliver a variety of stimulating activities and experiences both at the centre as well as out in the community. You will be responsible for leading fun and enjoyable sessions as well as providing a link with parents and carers. There is clear emphasis on a person-centred approach to promote clients independence, decision making and choice.

The Playworker predominantly works during school holidays, at After School activities and on Saturdays.

You will be based in our Children and Young People’s Service on Langley Road, Watford but may also work out in the community. The job is very varied and will involve 1:1 support including personal care. You will work alongside the Support Workers, planning and delivering experiences for children and young people, some with profound and multiple learning disabilities. You may be involved with planning and cooking meals and contributing towards support plans.

This means a flexible “can do” attitude, good IT skills, alongside an eye for detail, emotional resilience and being able to juggle a broad and diverse workload are all really important in this role. In return you will find this an extremely rewarding role where you will be making a real difference to young peoples’ lives on a daily basis.

As a Playworker you will receive support and leadership from the Leadership Team and you will be able to share knowledge and learning with your colleagues.

The service offers a wide range of services including:

* After School activities
* Holiday schemes
* Overnight Adventure break,
* Parent group for under 5’s
* Weekend activities
* Day opportunities for young people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities.

The service has an Outstanding rating with Ofsted and is registered on the Early Years Register.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

**Job Description**

**Playworker Children and Young People’s Service**

No two days will be the same. You will enjoy lots of variety and support people in the following ways:

1. Assist the Support Workers to plan and deliver a diverse range of leisure activities for children and young people age 0-25 years with special educational needs in a personalised way, ensuring that high quality standards are set and maintained which meet the care and support needs of current and future young people.

2. Empower young people - work to increase the skills, independence and participation of young people being supported by encouraging them to take risks, try new things and take more control over the service and their lives. Work with the Mental Capacity Act, to ensure where people need support with their choices that the support is given to the highest standards.

4. Communication – use a range of communication to ensure individuals can participate in sessions and can communicate their needs and wishes as well as communicating with their families

5. Provide a quality service – in conjunction with the Leadership Team and Support Workers, set the standards and be an example of the quality you need in the service, ensuring the service is welcoming to all.

6. Manage the resources for the service - work with the Leadership Team and Support Workers to ensure the resources are used efficiently, maintaining the building, keeping it clean and identifying and arranging repairs, as well as providing meals and the maintenance and purchase of session resources.



7. Live the Values – demonstrate our values: Inclusive, Respectful, Welcoming, Progressive, and Challenging discrimination both in the service and when representing Watford Mencap and people with a learning disability.

8. Contribute to the team - attend and participate positively in team meetings, supervisions, appraisals and training as requested and required by your Manager.

9. Ensure compliance - with current legislative and regulatory frameworks including The Care Act, Children and Families Act, Health & Social Care Act, Health and Safety law, Fire Safety Legislation, Mental Capacity law and regulatory frameworks including Ofsted and East of England ADASS standards.

10. Work flexibly - be able to meet the needs of people by working evenings & weekends. You will need to be able to travel around the area to meetings and training.

11. Keep people safe – maintain Health & Safety within the service, identifying risks during sessions and ensuring appropriate action is taken to mitigate risk. Follow Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Fire Safety procedures while still maintaining a personalised support to each person.

12. Embrace diversity – actively promote and work within Watford Mencap’s Equal Opportunity and Diversity policy at all times.

13. Be flexible - undertake such additional duties appropriate to the post and to support the organisation’s wider goals by working flexibly across the organization, from time to time, as determined by your manager.

14. Report any significant/notifiable events or concerns through line management channels, including when working out of hours if needed.

15. Be supportive – through maintaining records and supporting the leadership team.

16. Develop and maintain positive working relationships with your stakeholders, including young people and their families, Watford Mencap colleagues, grant funders, Ofsted and authorities.

17. Any additional duties reasonably expected within this level and role.

**This job description may be reviewed annually to meet changing service requirements.**

**Person Specification:**

**Playworker – Children & Young People**

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|  | **Qualities Required** | **Essential/Desirable** |
| Education & qualification | Commitment to access training and to continuing self-development | Essential |
| Experience | Experience of working in a team | Desirable |
| Experience of supporting children or young people | Desirable |
| Experience of supporting children or adults with a learning disability | Desirable |
| Knowledge | Knowledge of the needs and rights of people with learning disabilities | Essential |
| Skills | Able to support young people in a creative way | Essential |
| Strong communication skills | Essential |
| Able to form effective working relationships | Essential |
| Complete and maintain accurate written records | Desirable |
| Be a problem solver | Desirable |
| Excellent IT skills | Desirable |
| General | Able to demonstrate genuine commitment to the values and goals of Watford Mencap | Essential |

**Our Values**

To be successful in this role we expect you to share and live our values:

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| **Value** | **Behaviour** |
| **Inclusive** | You involve the people you support to live the life they choose by listening to them and planning with them and advocating for them. |
| You work with the families and a range of professionals, managing priorities and always staying focused on the person you are supporting. |
| You are able to communicate effectively with people with a learning disability, adapting your approach to the needs of the person at the time. |
| **Respectful** | You demonstrate through your actions respect, dignity, diversity, and privacy for people you support. |
| You develop and maintain effective working relationships with people you support, their families, colleagues and partner organisations. |
| You work flexibly and can adapt to changes in workload as necessary. |
| **Welcoming** | You can communicate with a range of people with differing abilities. |
| You can develop and maintain a welcoming atmosphere for the people you support and their families. |
| You can work with other health and social care professionals to meet the needs of the people you support. |
| **Progressive** | Keep your social care knowledge and skills up to date. |
| Be able to record information, access and manipulate data stored in IT systems and share information easily and appropriately. |
| Be innovative with ideas and passionate about developing the service. |
| Be able to think creatively to develop more effective systems as the needs of the service changes. |
| **Challenging** | Professionally challenge prejudices that cause barriers for people living with learning disabilities. |