

Dedham Therapy Farm CIC

Mill Lane,
Dedham,
Colchester,
Essex.
CO7 6DH

At Dedham Therapy Farm CIC we support individuals with diverse needs, to overcome barriers to daily living using animals and outdoor activity. We are a small close knit Occupational Therapy team working collaboratively to provide a person centred service to people of all ages and ability.

We are a unique setting, working with a diverse range of individuals. Based on the border of Essex and Suffolk, we pride ourselves in offering a therapeutic outdoor service all year round.

Vision: To empower people to develop, recover, or maintain their wellbeing through nature, animals and meaningful activities.

Mission: We provide bespoke, person-centered therapeutic services using nature, animals and occupational therapy to anyone who would benefit. We improve people's physical and mental health using Animal Facilitated Therapy and farming activities.

Values: Person centred, Collaborative, Inclusive, Open - minded, Diverse.

Role Occupational Therapy Assistant

Salary £25,350 – £27,300

Hours Between the hours of 08:30 – 16:30 Monday - Friday

Closing Date 24th January 2025

Person specification

Category	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE in maths and English or equivalent. • DBS check 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid at Work or Emergency First Aid at work certificate. • Full UK drivers' licence with access to a vehicle. • Fire Safety • Health and Safety • Manual Handling • Safeguarding level 2
Experience/Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with people with a learning disability, mental health problems and challenging behaviour • Animal care inc dogs • Record keeping and note writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety • De-escalation skills • Working as part of an occupational therapy team. • Gardening and/or woodwork. • Animal Assisted Therapy. • Risk assessing in the moment and formally documenting a risk assessment.
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate and present information, verbally and in writing, in a clear and logical manner to Farm Assistants and carers who may have difficulties with communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative communication skills e.g. sign/Makaton.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to prioritise, organise and delegate. • Ability to maintain pace in a high demand environment. • The ability to modify how you communicate with animals and people depending on the situation. • Be able to take direction. • Able to use own initiative. • Competent IT skills. 	
Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivated. • Creative. • Ability to work autonomously and take responsibility for own actions and others. • Positive risk approach. • Ability to work collaboratively in a close-knit team. • Develop good working relationships with other organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of social enterprise. • Attention to detail.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be willing to work outside all year round. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a desire to use animals and outdoor activity to provide therapeutic intervention. 	
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Job Description

The post holder will

- To work with Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants and running therapeutic sessions, for an allocated and varied caseload.
- Provide Animal Assisted Therapy sessions and outdoor activity to Farm Assistants referred for therapy.
- Assist in the assessment, planning, review and implementation of therapeutic farm and community sessions.
- Continuously evaluate and record Farm Assistant progress.
- Support Farm Assistants in a group or on a one to one basis.
- Follow all Dedham Therapy Farm CIC policies and procedures.
- Act as role model for Junior or less experienced Staff.
- Participate in the development of the service.
- Establish therapeutic relationships with Farm Assistants with appropriate boundaries.
- Carry out risk assessments to ensure safety of all.
- Work collaboratively with the rest of the team.
- Work collaboratively with the Farm Assistants and their significant others, to provide person centred sessions.
- Use the therapeutic approach to manage detrimental behaviour and support valued behaviour.
- Establish good working relationships with other organisations.
- Work autonomously, seeking advice when appropriate.
- To understand the impact on the Farm Assistant and their family/carers of Occupational Therapy intervention and to be able to modify it appropriately.
- To cover, where necessary, staff sickness and annual leave as requested by management.
- Be creative.
- Be motivated.
- Demonstrate commitment to Continuous Professional Development.

- Open to expand knowledge and skills relating to the setting, e.g. gardening, animal care.
- Demonstrate flexibility within your role to support the needs of the team and Farm Assistants.
- Sourcing and purchasing session resources following purchase procedures.
- Answering the phone if required, speaking with Farm Assistants support network via various means of communication.
- Attending meetings with other organisations and support networks.
- Provide team member support to support Farm Assistants unable to get into session due to anxiety where you are available.
- Maintain and cleaning of equipment.
- Providing first aid and carry out fire Marshall duties
- Meet the animal care needs of the therapy animals and liase with animal care team to ensure health and wellbeing of therapy animals.
- Work with the team to meet the needs of the business.
- Contribute to keeping a high level of cleanliness in the office, restrooms, and farm buildings and general farm areas.

What can we offer you?

- Personal development
- A friendly working environment.
- 28 days holiday + 4 Bank holidays pro rata (This is subject to change annually based on when the bank holidays fall).
- Guaranteed week off over Christmas, Easter & October half term.
- Opportunity to share ideas and make a real difference to our service.
- Opportunity to have input into your caseload.
- Variety in your working day.
- Opportunity to have input in service development.
- Paid DBS
- Pension Plan

If you require any further information about our service, please contact us.