

# RECRUITMENT PACK

## Play Therapist



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# Welcome

Welcome to The Wish Centre!

As the CEO of The Wish Centre, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all candidates interested in joining our team as the Play Therapist.

Are you passionate about supporting children to heal and recover from the impact of domestic abuse? Do you have the skills to provide trauma-informed, child-centred therapeutic support that helps children feel safe, understood and empowered? If so, we would love to hear from you.

The Wish Centre is seeking a compassionate and skilled Play Therapist to join our dedicated refuge team. This is a vital role supporting children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse, providing therapeutic play sessions, emotional support and a safe space to process their experiences. You will play a key part in helping children rebuild their sense of safety, develop resilience and begin to thrive.

If you need help with any aspect of the process, please contact our Head of People & Culture: [stephanie.sayers@thewishcentre.org](mailto:stephanie.sayers@thewishcentre.org).

I look forward to welcoming a dedicated and talented Head of Finance and Resources to The Wish Centre family.

Best regards,

Shigufta Khan  
CEO, The Wish Centre



# Our Values

At The Wish Centre, our values shape who we are, how we work and the people we recruit.

## **Our Vision**

A world free from domestic abuse.

## **Our Mission**

To raise awareness, educate communities and empower individuals to live free from domestic abuse through support, safe accommodation, behaviour change programmes and training. We are a values-led organisation and look for people who consistently demonstrate our values in their behaviour, decisions and relationships.

## **Our Values: H.E.R.E**

### **Holistic**

We work with the whole person and family, recognising the lasting impact of domestic abuse. This means working with compassion, using trauma-informed approaches, collaborating with others and supporting wellbeing.

### **Education**

We believe education creates change. This means being open to learning, challenging stigma and sharing knowledge to improve practice.

### **Respect**

Respect underpins everything we do. This means being inclusive and non-judgemental, valuing lived experience and communicating ethically.

### **Empower**

We support people to make informed choices and regain control. This means working alongside people, focusing on strengths and encouraging independence.

### **What This Means for You**

Working at The Wish Centre is challenging and rewarding. We are looking for compassionate, reflective people who are committed to our H.E.R.E values. If this sounds like you, we would welcome your application.

# Job Advertisement

## Play Therapist

Hours of work: 20 hours per week

Reports to: Refuge Manager

Line management responsibility: No

Salary: £15,600 - £16,640 per annum (dependent on experience)

Contract: Fixed term for 12 months

Location: The Wish Centre, Unit 21, Business Development Centre, Eanam Old Rd, Blackburn BB1 5BL

### About Us

The Wish Centre has supported people affected by domestic abuse for over 35 years, delivering specialist services including IDVA support, refuge accommodation, counselling and children and young people's services.

### About the Role

We are looking for a compassionate and skilled Play Therapist to support children living in refuge who have experienced domestic abuse.

In this role, you will provide therapeutic support through play-based approaches, helping children process trauma, build resilience, and feel safe. You will carry out assessments, plan and deliver sessions, and work closely with families, colleagues, and partner agencies to support each child's development and wellbeing.

### About You

You will hold (or be working towards) a recognised Play Therapy qualification and have experience supporting children through therapeutic interventions. You will have a strong understanding of trauma, attachment, and safeguarding, and be able to build trusting relationships with children in a sensitive and supportive way.

We are particularly interested in candidates who share our values and are committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families.

### Why Join Us?

This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of a supportive, values-driven organisation where your work will have a real impact. You will benefit from clinical supervision, opportunities for development, and the chance to shape support for children in refuge.

### Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

We welcome applications from all backgrounds and particularly value lived experience. Any information shared will be treated in confidence.

### Occupational Requirement

This post is open to female applicants only, in accordance with Schedule 9, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, as being female is considered a Genuine Occupational Requirement for this role.

The Wish Centre delivers specialist domestic abuse services to women who have experienced male violence and abuse. Due to the nature of the role, including providing trauma-informed support, working with highly sensitive disclosures, and upholding service users' privacy, dignity and safety, we have determined that this requirement is proportionate and lawful.

### Closing Date: 2nd April 2026

To read more about the specific duties of the role, please see the full Job Description on the next page!

# Job Description

## Who Are We?

We support victims of domestic abuse and are unique in delivering our perpetrator education support programme. For 35 years we have been at the forefront of developing and delivering specialist services to individuals and families. Our services include a helpline, advice and IDVA service, refuge accommodation, counselling programmes for victims, schools-based programmes; behaviour change programmes, counselling services, access to free legal support, volunteering opportunities and peer support groups. We are looking for someone who can embrace and extend our support through enthusiasm, passion and drive.

## Creating Safe, Inclusive Opportunities for All

At The Wish Centre, we are proud to be a Trauma-Informed Organisation, which means we approach every aspect of our work—including recruitment—with an understanding of the impact of trauma and a commitment to creating safe, supportive, and empowering environments. This approach shapes how we engage with applicants, ensuring sensitivity, respect, and fairness throughout the process.

Our values of H.E.R.E—Holistic, Educate, Respect, Empower—guide everything we do. We strive to recruit individuals who share these values and are passionate about supporting the communities we serve.

We are committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds. We particularly value lived experience, and encourage individuals with personal or indirect experience of domestic abuse to join us as trustees, staff, or volunteers. If you choose to share this information during recruitment, it will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and only disclosed to the interview panel or HR as necessary.

## Purpose of the Role

The Play Therapist will provide trauma-informed therapeutic support to children living in The Wish Centre's refuge who have experienced domestic abuse. Working within recognised play therapy frameworks, the postholder will help children process experiences, build emotional resilience, and support healthy development in a safe, nurturing environment.

## Key Responsibilities

1. Deliver individual and group play therapy sessions within refuge settings
2. Complete initial and ongoing assessments and care plans
3. Support children affected by trauma, domestic abuse, attachment disruption and displacement
4. Maintain accurate, confidential clinical records and outcome data
5. Work collaboratively with refuge staff, parents/carers and multi-agency professionals
6. Contribute to safeguarding processes and child protection plans
7. Ensure compliance with BAPT / PTUK ethical standards, GDPR and organisational policies
8. Attend clinical supervision and engage in reflective practice
9. Participate in CPD and service development activities

# Person Specification

## Qualifications & Experience

### Essential

- Recognised Play Therapy qualification (BAPT / PTUK accredited or working towards) (Assessed via Application)
- Eligibility for professional registration (Assessed via Application)

### Desirable

- Additional training in trauma-informed or attachment-based practice (Assessed via Application)

## Experience

### Essential

- Delivering therapeutic interventions with children (Assessed via Application / Interview)
- Working within safeguarding and child protection frameworks (Assessed via Application / Interview)
- Experience of multi-agency working (Assessed via Application / Interview)

### Desirable

- Experience working in refuge, domestic abuse, SEN or early years settings (Assessed via Application)
- Experience supporting children impacted by trauma or attachment difficulties (Assessed via Application / Interview)

## **Skills, Knowledge & Abilities**

### Essential

- Strong understanding of child development, attachment and trauma (Assessed via Interview / Task)
- Ability to build safe, trusting therapeutic relationships with children (Assessed via Interview / Task)
- Skilled in play-based therapeutic interventions (Assessed via Interview / Task)
- Ability to maintain accurate clinical records and reports (Assessed via Application / Interview)
- Sound understanding of UK safeguarding, confidentiality and GDPR (Assessed via Interview)

## **Personal Qualities**

### Essential

- Commitment to The Wish Centre's values of Holistic, Educate, Respect and Empower (Assessed via Interview)
- High levels of integrity, professionalism and ethical practice (Assessed via Interview)
- Resilient, adaptable and flexible in response to organisational needs (Assessed via Interview)
- Commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion and safeguarding (Assessed via Inter

# How to Apply

To apply, please complete our online application via the following link

**[Application for Play Therapist](#)**

**The closing date for the position is 2nd April 2026**

This post is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check at a Enhanced level.

The Wish Centre is committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work. We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds and identities.

Should you require the application in an alternative format than the link above, please email [stephanie.sayers@thewishcentre.org](mailto:stephanie.sayers@thewishcentre.org)

# Staff Reward & Recognition

At The Wish Centre, we value our people and recognise the important and often challenging work they do. Our Reward & Recognition offer has been designed to be flexible, fair, and to place staff wellbeing at the forefront, ensuring support reflects individual needs.

Westfield Health - Wellbeing and Savings:

- Westfield Health Cash Plan helps cover everyday healthcare costs, including dental, optical and therapies, with cash back up to set limits
- 24/7 GP access and a confidential Advice & Information Line for medical, legal and financial wellbeing support
- Dependent children covered on key benefits at no extra cost
- Westfield Rewards gives access to discounts, cashback and vouchers with hundreds of high-street and online retailers
- Savings available on shopping, groceries, lifestyle and leisure purchases
- Easy access via an online portal and mobile app

All staff have access to Westfield Health from day 1, our online reward, recognition and wellbeing app.

## Flexible Wellbeing Choice

Alongside Westfield Health, each staff member can choose one additional wellbeing benefit each year, following their probationary period, allowing them to select what best supports their wellbeing.

Options include:

- An extra Wellbeing Day
- A mental wellbeing app subscription
- A wellbeing allowance for approved wellbeing activities or products
- A wellbeing hamper

## A Supportive, Values-Led Culture

Our Reward & Recognition approach reflects our commitment to staff wellbeing, flexibility and recognition. By investing in our people, we aim to ensure everyone feels valued, supported and empowered to do their best work.