

Job Title & Grade	Senior Occupational Therapist within HSCP Mental Health Team
Campaign Reference #	102254
Closing Date	Thursday 27 th August 2026 at 11:45pm
Duration of Post	Permanent Contract
Advertisement Type	External
Specific T&C's of post	35 hour standard working week – 5 days over 5 Annual Leave: 30 days per annum Proleptic appointments (within three months of the offer stage) may be considered for this post. Remuneration is in accordance with the salary scale approved by the Department of Health: Current salary scale with effect from 1st June 2026: Grade, Code 3301, starting at Point 1 €65,197 and rising annually in increments: €76,767 LSIS.
Garda Vetting	Appointment to this post is subject to Garda Vetting and satisfactory reference check.
Location of post	This post will be located in the NCHI site.
Reporting Arrangements	This post will report to the Occupational Therapist Manager in Charge III in CHI at NCHI. Clinical supervision will be provided by the clinical specialist OT within the mental health service.
Key Working Relationships	The post holder will work closely with: INTERNAL • Occupational Therapy team members in mental health services • MDT colleagues within the HSCP Mental Health Team, including Social workers, Psychologists and administrators • MDT Colleagues within the wider Department of Mental Health including Consultant Psychiatrists, Nursing staff and administrators • Relevant medical and surgical consultants, ward nursing staff and multidisciplinary teams across the NCHI • Occupational Therapy department colleagues, across other clinical specialties, whom some in-patient management may be shared with

	EXTERNAL • CAMHS services • Community Mental Health in-patient unit and day-ward services • Community Primary care Occupational Therapy services and Children Disability Network teams • Relevant teachers within the department of education <i>Please note that this list is not exhaustive and key working relationships will change as the project moves from service development, construction completion, commissioning & transitioning to steady state.</i>
Purpose of the Role	The post holder will provide a comprehensive Occupational Therapy service to the patients referred to the mental health services being developed for the NCHI. The post holder will become a core member of the Mental Health OT team providing services to HSCP structures across in-patient and out-patient services for those children and young people presenting to the hospital with mental health difficulties. The mental health OT team includes clinical specialist and other senior occupational therapists. Out-patient HSCP supports are provided to children under the care of a hospital consultant and experiencing psychological/ mental health issues. The mental health OT team also supports in-patients by co-ordinating care alongside colleagues from the disciplines of Psychology, Social Work, and Psychiatry and Nursing colleagues; In-patient management also involves close working with the medics and nurses of other clinical specialities such as orthopaedics, neurology, renal, endocrine, rheumatology etc. The post holder will provide therapeutic services and liaise closely with the multidisciplinary team of the clinical services that the child is attached to, whilst working within the team structure. The OT will link with multiple medical, surgical and clinical services across CHI and will advocate for the discipline of OT in the design of the future operating models within the NCHI. The post holder will strive to support the development of the mental health occupational therapy services and be innovative in their approach to develop in-patient and out-patient OT services. The senior therapist will also work within Occupational Therapy department as directed by the OT Manager. Duties will also involve supporting cross cover into acute medical areas as required. The area of cross cover will be dependent on the skillset of the successful candidate. <i>The successful candidate may be required to work across CHI sites and services in line with organisational requirements and the development of the new children's hospital and associated services.</i>

Principal Duties and Responsibilities	Professional Duties and Responsibilities: - The post holder will be expected to live CHI values and be child-centered, compassionate, progressive and will act with respect, excellence and integrity. <u>Professional/ Clinical/ Technical Responsibilities</u> - Carry and effectively time manage clinical inpatient caseloads; demonstrating the ability to work in high pressure, fast paced acute environment - Assess the needs of the child or young person in relation to their occupational performance needs in conjunction with the MDT team plan, and within the context of their family, home, social and school context - Have clinical knowledge and experience working within the field of Mental Health and relevant applicable Occupational Therapy interventions. - Have clinical knowledge and experience of working within paediatrics and relevant occupational therapy interventions e.g. SI applications, regulations, routines for living with chronic conditions, activity analysis, pacing strategies etc. (not an exhaustive list) - Take active responsibility in own learning; research gaps in own knowledge or seek relevant support to develop necessary skills - Utilise and apply appropriate therapeutic approaches and models to effectively support young people presenting with mental health difficulties; these may include MOHO, PEO, Bio-psychosocial approaches and recovery models. Adapt the therapy and approaches required to effectively meet the needs of the young person, and steer and support their families throughout their journeys. - Develop and facilitate group interventions to meet the needs of the population within the mental health service, and in line with team priorities for service development - Assess the needs of the child or young person in relation to their occupational performance needs, in conjunction with the MDT team plan, and within the context of their family, home, social and school context - Can demonstrate knowledge and principles of national acute and community paediatric care and CAMHS services, with specific knowledge in different clinical areas. Have a professional knowledge and awareness of the national healthcare environment including Vision for Change, Slainte Care, National Model of Care programmes and the organisation of Children's Health Ireland. - Be able to interact with and support families and the young person's social or educational network at difficult times. - Have clinical skills and personal attributes required to work with this complex cohort of children, often dealing with families coping with new diagnosis. - Support patients and families through progression of physical as well as mental health diagnoses; and to be cognisant of the emotional impact, and adjustment needs of the child and family during often difficult times. - Demonstrate clinical skills to work at varying paces of acute work environments e.g. out-patient caseloads vs in-patients - Be able to demonstrate appropriate clinical reasoning working with children, young people and their families.
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Service Development/ Quality Improvement

- In line with occupational therapy roles, contribute to functional MDT goals to support children and their families through their in-patient journey
- Take an active role in identifying gaps in OT service of assigned clinical area contribute to or develop service development plan, resources and quality improvement initiatives, in line with direction/agreement from supervisor and/or line manager
- Operate at a senior grade level within the department taking responsibility for duties within assigned clinical area, provide support to junior staff members and remain in close collaboration with OT colleagues
- Participate in projects, as directed by OT Management team, and in line with service development and QI projects and/ or audits
- Manage, participate and play a key role in the practice education of student therapists. Take part in teaching/ training/ supervision of other Occupational Therapy students, and attend university Practice Educator courses as appropriate

Communication and Collaboration

- Feedback Occupational Therapy opinion on the child or young person's occupational performance, to the multidisciplinary team to assist with team planning for the child's care and for joint goal setting to support rehabilitation
- Demonstrate excellent communication skills in both formal and informal scenarios
- Be responsible for the education and supervision of junior staff, occupational therapy assistants, and other professional and ancillary staff as required
- Manage, participate and play a key role in the practice education of student therapists
- Collaborate closely with ward staff to clearly support safe in-patient management in line with OT goals and recommendations
- Consult with parents/carers/teachers/community services/ CAMHS/ In-patient units as required regarding planning and prioritising, in a timely fashion
- Devise and implement occupational therapy intervention programmes, appropriate to each clinical caseload.
- Raise clinical risks and incidents via appropriate hospital systems and channels
- Contribute to team meeting and share responsibilities for chairing MDT meetings as required
- Maintain active communication about hospital service developments with OT managers
- Advocate throughout the working day, through attending meetings, and through effective therapeutic interventions with children and families, the role of occupational therapist within the acute setting. Take advantage of opportunities that may arise to promote the role of OT within the organisation

Governance, Compliance and Risk

- Take responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the caseload and clinical speciality are including the maintenance of clinical records, recording of statistics and effective management of waitlists, where appropriate, in line with departmental policy
- Maintain up to date and contemporaneous clinical notes of OT inputs via the electronic healthcare records and ward charts, and ensure MDT colleagues are kept up to date of all relevant developments and therapy goals to support hospital management of in-patient stay and discharge planning
- Have the clinical, managerial and administrative capacity to properly carry out the functions of the role. Be responsible for identifying service gaps and be proactive in developing services to meet the need
- Fulfil all administrative duties as appropriate in relation to the equipment pathways to manage the logistical movement of OT equipment stocks across hospital sites and to offsite storage.
- Represent the department at relevant MDT team meetings and case conferences as appropriate. Key work cases as required
- Keep abreast of current best practice by attending appropriate post graduate courses/conferences, reviewing published material and carrying out research or clinical audit in the area to maintain a high standard of service, including engagement in CPD.
- Participate in continued professional development including in-service training, attending and presenting at conference/ courses relevant to practice etc, as agreed by the Occupational Therapy Manager
- Ensure that standard of practice and on-going CPD and knowledge/skill development maintains standard to operate as a CORU registered Occupational Therapist. Engage and maintain own records in mandatory training programmes required by CHI policy
- Engage in clinical and professional supervision with assigned supervisor and participate in departmental support systems and annual Performance Review as per CHI policy.

Other Duties

- Any other duties that may be assigned by the Occupational Therapy Manager within the OT dept. providing services to the NCHI.

The above is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all duties involved and consequently, the post holder may be required to perform other duties as appropriate to the post which may be assigned to them from time to time and to contribute to the development of the post while in office.

Eligibility criteria, qualifications and experience	<u>Essential Criteria:</u> • Be registered as an Occupational Therapist with CORU with registration number listed on the CV • 3 years post-qualification clinical Occupational Therapy experience. • Recent and satisfactory experience within the field of mental health <u>Desirable Criteria:</u> • Experience in the field of Child and Adolescent Mental Health • Recent and satisfactory experience within the field of paediatrics • Knowledge of the Irish health care system, and community OT/ CAMHS services • Experience as a supervisor of students and/ or staff grade therapists
Competition Specific Selection Process How to Apply & Informal Enquiries	Applications for this post <u>must be accompanied by a cover letter</u>, setting out relevant experience that illustrates how the essential criteria listed above are met. The criterion for short listing is based on the requirements of the post, as outlined in the eligibility criteria. * Please note that you must submit a cover letter with your CV, this forms part of your application and CV's will not be accepted without a detailed cover letter. The closing date for submissions of CVs and cover letter is Thursday 27th August by 11:45pm. Applications must be completed through the advertised post on CHI.jobs by clicking 'Apply for Job'. Applications will not be accepted through direct email or any other method. For informal enquiries for this specialty/department, please contact Colette Slevin, Professional Lead for Occupational Therapy Service, 01 8784542, colette.slevin@childrenshealthireland.ie For other queries relating to this recruitment process, please contact Talent Acquisition Specialist – Naomi McGrath at naomi.mcgrath@childrenshealthireland.ie PLEASE NOTE: CHI has transitioned to a process of a one commencement day per month for all new employees and Secondments. This update to our Onboarding process is aligned to changes in our monthly/fortnightly payroll and with the corporate induction program.

	This process enhancement ensures that we can thoroughly prepare for your arrival and facilitate a smooth transition in your onboarding journey. It is important for you to note that if you do not have your pre-employments and mandatory training completed in time, your commencement date will be deferred to the next available date. Below, you'll find the list of commencement dates for 2026 & 2027 for your information. • 7th September • 5th October • 2nd November • 7th December • 4th January
Information on “Non-European Economic Area Applicants” is available from https://dbei.gov.ie/en/ Children's Health Ireland is legally required to verify that all staff have the right to work in Ireland before they begin employment, regardless of nationality or immigration status. This right-to-work check is also necessary when an individual re-joins CHI or when their immigration permission or employment permit is due to expire. Permit holders can change their permit employer to CHI after a period of nine months has passed since commencing their first employment permit in the State. The change of employer applies to the General Employment Permit (GEP) and to the Critical Skills Employment Permit (CSEP). The change is required to be completed as part of pre-employment clearance. All Permits and Change of Employer applications are processed on the Employment Permits Online. Some recruitment campaigns may be open to candidates who are not citizens of the EEA, Switzerland, or United Kingdom. You can consult the Critical Skills Occupational List see if your profession is currently eligible under this route.	
The programme outlined for Children's Health Ireland may impact on this role and as structures change the job description may be reviewed. Children's Health Ireland is an equal opportunities employer.	