

# ARTS THERAPIST

## Job specification



### Taigh Chearsabhagh Arts Therapies Service

This is an exciting opportunity to join a developing Arts Therapies service that is based in an Arts and Heritage Centre on the island of North Uist in the Western Isles of Scotland.

Taigh-Tasgaidh + Ionad-Ealain Taigh Chearsabhagh / Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre champions heritage, visual arts and the Gaelic language and culture on the isle of North Uist. In our galleries and award-winning museum, we offer a stimulating and dynamic programme of cultural events for our local community and the island's many visitors throughout the year.

We present contemporary visual arts and heritage exhibitions, poetry and literary and traditional music events, as well as small festivals and conferences. We provide our community with an essential service by housing the local post office. Our cafe is a busy hub for people to meet and socialise. We also host and support the University of the Highland/Lewis Castle College's visual arts degree courses.

Our artists' residencies and community-focused workshops programmes complement and inform the work exhibited in our galleries and museum. Taigh Chearsabhagh's ethos and activities aim to reflect and celebrate the Gaelic language and culture integral to North Uist's identity.

### The position / Conditions

The Arts Therapies Service provides a consistent and sustainable arts therapies multiple modality service to the communities of North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist and Barra. In partnership with the Statutory Sector and working in collaboration with other Third Sector organisations, the Arts Therapies Service aims to expand and embed arts therapies more fully as an integrated service throughout the islands.

Job Title	Arts therapist (Art, Music, Drama, Dance Movement)
Reports to	Lead Arts Therapist
Salary	£31,000 per annum, pro-rata
Hours	22.5 per week
Annual Leave	35 days per annum, pro-rata
Location	Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum & Arts Centre, North Uist and, on occasion, the Isles of North and South Uist, Benbecula and Barra.

### The position / Aims and objectives

Building upon the partnerships and relationships established by the lead art therapist based at Taigh Chearsabhagh, the post holder will support the expansion of this new arts therapies service in conjunction with the lead arts therapies and in liaison with other professionals and community leaders in line with relevant Scottish Government strategy and frameworks, mental health legislation, policy and procedure, as well as local strategic policies and initiatives in mental health and community support.

Reporting to the lead arts therapist the post holder will monitor, evaluate and review the specific modality of arts therapy to adapt to the needs of participating individuals and groups across the age range in the communities of North and South Uist, Benbecula and Barra. Through effective partnership working the post holder will offer and provide safe and ethical choices for therapeutic treatment and intervention.

As an arts therapist in a rural community, the post holder will be required to work with different client groups and across a variety of settings at times, while having a particular interest in developing their particular modality of arts therapies in adult mental health with isolated and elderly adults and people with dementia.

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### The position / Main duties

- In conjunction with Lead Arts Therapist assess and manage referrals, treatment and discharge
- Develop and provide individual and group arts therapies in their own modality and in conjunction with other arts therapist(s) cross-modality
- Ensure work delivered is person-centred and that the gender, ethnic, cultural and spiritual needs of service users inform practice integrally
- Assess, monitor, evaluate and review arts therapies interventions and support
- Manage a caseload safely and ethically. The post-holder is required to use independent clinical judgement to make an appropriate assessment, care, clinical, ethical and professional decisions as well as exercise a duty of care to clients and the community
- Liaise with a variety of other professionals and community leaders including those in medical, mental health and social work fields
- Participate in cross-organisational meetings in relation to both service development and individual clients
- Maintain clinical notes and any materials arising from arts activity securely and in line with professional ethics
- Maintain coherent communication, administration and reports
- Maintain confidentiality and ethical codes
- Attend external clinical supervision
- Attend managerial supervision with the lead arts therapist
- Attend arts therapies service meetings
- Maintain their continuous professional development and up to date knowledge of relevant legislation, policy and procedure

### The position / Essential skills

- Health & Social Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered / Professionally registered arts therapist
- MA qualification or above in Arts Therapies Modality
- Two years of experience with adult clients in their own modality of arts therapy
- Excellent skills in, as well as an in-depth knowledge and evidence of:
  - a. Modality specific arts therapies assessment, treatment and discharge
  - b. The understanding of boundaries and confidentiality in a small community
  - c. Inter-personal relationships and connections
  - d. Verbal and written communication

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- e. The understanding of systems and organisational dynamics
- f. The capacity to share knowledge and experience with other professionals in the best interests of the clients and the arts therapies service
- g. Reports' writing
- h. The capacity to adapt therapeutic principles safely to different contexts and client groups
- i. Child and vulnerable adult protection
- j. An understanding of the differences and similarities of the arts modalities
- k. Ongoing engagement with arts practice as a reflective component of the work
- l. An awareness of and interest in Scottish Gaelic culture and language
- m. Relevant policy and procedure e.g. Mental Health Act Scotland Continuous professional development and a commitment to maintaining up to date knowledge of legislation, national and local policies and procedures relating to the work
- n. Capacity to maintain work online where necessary, e.g. due to Covid- 19, as well as seek training where necessary to adapt to change
- o. A full driving licence

### The position / Desirable skills

Experience in working with the following:

- a. Trauma, including complex trauma and trans-generational trauma
- b. Addictions
- c. Dementia
- d. Cross culturally
- e. Loss and bereavement
- f. Physical conditions, including palliative care
- g. Isolated adults and complex mental health needs including dual diagnosis
- h. The management of risk
- i. Managing a case load
- j. Meaningful experience of and/or willingness to engage with:

Rural island working; the issues faced by the island communities of North and South Uist, Benbecula and Barra; learning the Scottish Gaelic language; research in one's own modality; a variety of arts practice and its interface with art therapy; an understanding of how arts therapies might fit within the community settings; further CPD training in a range of issues relevant to the arts therapies service; an awareness of and interest in social, cultural and political systems as a context for understanding and developing the work.

### The position / How to apply

Please send us a covering letter (maximum two sides of A4) and a current CV articulating why you think you would be a good candidate for this position. Please tell us how your previous life and professional experience and skills qualify you for the role, as well as why you would like to work in Uist and Barra with the client groups specified

Please email your application to Simon Hart, Director of Business & Development – [simon@taigh-chearsabhagh.org](mailto:simon@taigh-chearsabhagh.org) with the subject line: ARTS THERAPIST.

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### The position / Timeline

- Applications open Monday 4 April 2022
- Deadline for applications is Monday 9th May 2022
- Shortlisted candidates informed Monday 16th May 2022
- Interviews Monday 23 May 2022
- Successful candidate informed Friday 27 May 2022

During the formal interview of approximately 45 minutes, shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a 7–10 minute presentation about their arts therapies work. The interview panel will consist of the Lead Arts Therapist and two members of our board of directors. Interviews will be held online.

If you have any queries or additional supports needs, please contact the Director of Business & Development: [simon@taigh-chearsabhagh.org](mailto:simon@taigh-chearsabhagh.org)

We look forward to hearing from you.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL