



Life Chance.

Care • Nurture • Inspire

Candidate Pack



www.sfit.org.uk
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Welcome to the Life Chance Group

Mark Escott: Co-founder & Chairman



Mark is the Co-Founder of Life Chance Group, specialising in working with young people and families who have experienced trauma. His life story and philosophy informed his recent best-selling book - *'One More Life Chance'*.

Despite a troubled childhood he carved out an impressive career as a child and adolescent behaviour specialist, working therapeutically with young people and families within the Health and Education sectors.

In 2011 he set up Life Chance and School for Inspiring Talents, an innovative independent therapeutic school based in Devon. Hugely successful, it was the first school in the UK to be awarded the Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools Award.

Today, Life Chance continues to expand its education, training, and outreach services to transform the life chances of children and young people in our communities.

Hannah Moon: Chief Executive

When you join the Life Chance Group, you'll become part of an award-winning organisation that brings together professional staff, therapeutic disciplines, and a forward-thinking approach to offer a range of services that provide holistic support for young people, families and our wider community.

Life Chance Education (School for Inspiring Talents) has two sites in South Devon, hosting a team of amazing teachers, learning support assistants and multi-disciplinary practitioners who support our young people who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences, within this therapeutic setting.

Life Chance Care is an assessment service for families and schools, providing a service for children struggling with their social, emotional and mental health needs. Our vision for supporting wider communities is to provide outreach help to schools and other agencies across the South West.

Life Chance Training shares the best practice and hands-on knowledge that our team of experienced staff have gained from supporting children. We've provided our training service to over 60 schools and universities.

Life Chance Trust is our new charitable venture, helping 16-25 year olds reintegrate into the community and be the best they can be for the future, by providing funding, mentoring, training or vocational support.



Pete Jenkins: Executive Principal

At School for Inspiring Talents, we believe in supporting each and every student to achieve their fullest potential.

Our specialist educational staff, Multi-Disciplinary Team and business support colleagues work together to create a nurturing environment for our students who all have difficult or complex life stories and have experienced trauma.

Our core values are to **'care, nurture and inspire'** and these values underpin our award-winning therapeutic approach to education, enabling children to overcome many of their barriers to learning.

As a school we aspire to be outstanding, leading the way for our students to develop a bright future. This is exemplified in our school motto **'be the best we can be'**, encouraging our whole school community to excel.



Working for Life Chance & School for Inspiring Talents

Our staff are very special – dedicated, passionate and always willing to go above and beyond to ensure that the young people we support receive the best possible care.

The challenges and adverse childhood experiences faced by many of our young learners mean we approach education in a more adaptive way than mainstream primary / secondary schools. Our class sizes are small, with learning spaces that offer plenty of break-out spaces, safe calming sensory spaces and beautiful open-air areas to facilitate the regulatory benefits of being outdoors! Our curriculum and timetables are designed around each individual child, to meet their personal, emotional and wellbeing needs as well as their educational ambitions.

We know that working with our young people can be challenging as well as hugely rewarding – so staff wellbeing is a central part of our ethos. We want to acknowledge how important staff are, which is why we developed an Employee Wellbeing & Benefits programme tailored to helping people personally, professionally and financially. We also have initiatives such as 'finish early Fridays' and 'Wellbeing Wednesdays' to help staff maintain their resilience and de-stress!

Your opportunities for personal growth, training and professional development are encouraged via our CPD programme, but also by the holistic way we work, with our multi-disciplinary team such as therapists and mental health practitioners embedded within the school. Staff come from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, but all share a genuine desire to create a positive, supportive atmosphere, and to encourage improvement and growth in a professional, measurable way.



Creative Arts Therapist (Art/Music/Drama) Job Description and Person Specification

Job Title:	Creative Arts Therapist - Art/Music/Drama Therapist
Hours:	22.5 hours per week. Timings negotiable.
Salary:	Equivalent to £40,075 FTE pro rate 39 weeks. Actual salary £20,246.
Duration:	Permanent
Responsible to:	Head of Multi-Disciplinary Team

Key Role Purpose:

- Provide therapeutic support to students (aged 5-16) who have social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs and have experienced trauma, attachment difficulties and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
- Develop symbolic communication with students through the creative arts.
- Create a positive therapeutic relationship with students, which promotes positive change.
- Utilise an integrative evidence-based approach to deliver formal short, medium or long-term therapeutic interventions to young people aged 5-16yrs. Small group work or psychoeducational work may be required where appropriate.
- Assess student's needs using relevant assessment methods.
- Keep written records and produce reports of a professional standard, as requested, in accordance with school policies and procedures and consistent with a relevant professional body accredited by the Professional Standards Authority, for example.
- Provide support and guidance to parents and carers and deliver training where needed. The nature of this may include offering home visits or work in other settings at times.
- Support school staff by increasing awareness and understanding of social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) difficulties and provide advice, guidance, and training where appropriate.
- Work in collaboration with Education, Health, Social Care, and other multi-disciplinary colleagues as appropriate to support the student, parents/carers, and school-based team.
- Contribute, along with other professionals, to the student's My Plan to ensure that the therapeutic needs are integrated within this document.
- Work collaboratively as part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team, which may include involvement in other projects benefitting the whole school at times.
- Develop and maintain the skills and knowledge required of a skilled Creative Arts Therapist working with students in a school setting.

Professional Partnerships:

- Maintain regular contact with parents and carers, to keep them informed of the student's needs and progress and to secure positive family support and involvement.
- Work closely alongside key members of staff to ensure that the needs of the students are met, including contributing to policies and practices that will promote inclusion and engagement.
- Maintain current knowledge of the range of activities, courses, opportunities, and organisations that could provide extra support for students/families and make specialist referrals as appropriate.
- Work closely and collaboratively with the other members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team providing support and professional exchange of ideas and experience.
- Contribute to team meetings by discussing own and others input around student needs, ensuring a well-coordinated care plan.
- Respect the confidential nature of all information acquired in the performance of the job either verbally or in writing.

Personal & Professional Development:

Shaping Self and Others - actively engage with a full range of CPD opportunities, particularly those relating to:

- The advancement of SfIT and Life Chance Education
- The development of the Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Keep up to date with local and national initiatives, guidance and legislation that relates to SEND, young people, families, and education with a view to implementing and developing services as necessary.

Other Professional Duties:

- To be responsible for maintaining own competency to practice through CPD and maintain a portfolio which reflects personal development in order to maintain appropriate registration, for example professional requirements of the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC). British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) Ethical Framework, and specifically BACP's Good Practice Guidance for Counselling in Schools.
- To be accountable for own professional actions and recognise and work within professional boundaries, seeking advice and support as necessary.
- To keep up to date and develop strategies for implementing best practice in clinical areas relating to own caseload.
- To undertake any other duties as may be required as directed by the Multi-Disciplinary Team Manager.
- To represent the company positively at any local/regional or national events.
- To work flexibly to secure all the job requirements are met whilst maintaining appropriate work: life balance.
- To promote inclusion and equality of opportunity for all students in accordance with school policies.
- To operate within agreed legal and ethical boundaries, particularly in regard to Safeguarding.
- To carry out duties in accordance with health and safety legislation and school policies.

Qualifications & Experience:

Essential:

- Educated to at least degree level with an accredited post graduate qualification in arts therapy/psychotherapy.
- Membership of a professional body e.g., BAAT, BAMT, BADth, BAPT, UKCP, BACP.
- Evidence of commitment to ongoing learning and continuous professional development.
- Experience of direct work with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs/children and young people from vulnerable demographics.
- Experience of working with young people who display 'behaviour that challenges.'
- Experience of delivering therapy with young people.
- Ability to communicate complex or sensitive information to students and carers with empathy and reassurance.
- Experience of carrying out risk and care assessments and the development, coordination, implementation, monitoring, and review of care plans.
- Experience and high levels of competence when undertaking therapeutic intervention.
- Working knowledge of statutory and non-statutory partner agencies.
- Ability to support onward referral as required.
- Understanding of and ability to provide total commitment to the safeguarding of students.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as a member of a team.
- Ability to reflect on own practice; undertake training and receive advice and constructive feedback.
- Ability to promote the Equality and Diversity Policy and a practical awareness of how to implement it.
- Full UK driving licence and access to own car.

Desirable:

- Experience of designing, leading, and assessing therapeutic programmes.
- Experience working in a similar role with young people and families, ideally within a school setting.
- Experience of multi-agency/multi-disciplinary working.
- Experience of delivering training to staff
- Post qualification training, skills, and experience to work effectively with students with ACES, trauma, attachment difficulties and SEMH.

What do people say about us?

“I feel well supported
by my colleagues and
managers!”

Teaching Employee

“School for Inspiring Talents appealed
to me because they have a good
understanding of the impact of trauma
on a child’s development, which is
exactly the struggle my daughter has.”

Parent

“Thank you... I go to a lot of courses,
but I am leaving feeling really
refreshed and excited.”

Attendee on LifeChance training

“The School for Inspiring Talents is led
with a strong moral purpose. Leaders
and staff share a deep commitment to
caring for pupils who have faced
significant challenges in their lives.”

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