

open door 

want to be a part of something fantastic?

Shape Change

in mental health



About the charity

Open Door is one of Merseyside's most dynamic and progressive independent charities committed to shaping change in mental health. Based in Birkenhead, we deliver a holistic and creative programme of services that support the wellbeing and mental health of young people and families, using innovation, arts and culture as catalysts for change. All our programmes are free of charge and we have no waiting lists; we are committed to providing free, fast and effective mental health support at the point that people need it most. Our beneficiaries join our organisation as 'members' and can access a wide range of services including workshops, activities and individual support. Our offer is engaging and versatile, providing choices that aren't available through conventional mental health services.



We apply creativity and innovation to everything that we do; our services are led by a dynamic team of staff and trained peer mentors who, using their own personal experiences and a range of effective tools and programmes, support individuals through to better times. We have two main sites in Birkenhead and over the past 12 years, have grown to become one of the largest independent providers of talking therapies in Merseyside and one of the most progressive organisations of its kind in the UK (we were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2019 Honours List and the Investing in Volunteers Chartermark in 2020).

Open Door is all about empowerment, culture and opportunity. Not only do we offer support services for our members, but we also provide our local community with a creative and social space - Bloom Building. From Bloom, we offer hot desking, workshops, tenancies and more. We host an art gallery, an eclectic events programme and a network of cultural and health partners who work together with Open Door to co-create a vibrant programme of activities for new and existing members, taking mental health support out of traditional, clinical models and into the heart of engaging, non-stigmatising arts and culture.

Our organisational values are:

- Human
- Visionary
- Fire
- Professionalism



Our vision

What we hope to achieve in the longer term

Together our members, mentors and staff transform cultures around mental health. The times when we need support become moments of meaningful change. We all have opportunities to connect with brilliant people, transformative tools, and inspirational places.



Our mission

Why we are here and what we do

Open Door exists to shape meaningful change in mental health. We create inclusive communities, joyful places and evidence-based programmes that empower people to be mentally well. What we do first-hand in Merseyside, we share with others, inspiring change across the UK.

Creativity and shared experience is at the heart of everything we do; we innovate, we collaborate, and we push for lasting change.



"Open Door Charity has, over the last 12 years, shone a light on the positive impact that communities can have in the world when the people within them come together to exact real change. By building negative life experience into a positive outcome in the lives of others, we can rewrite the mental health agenda and co-create truly progressive and impactful resources.

What started as a grassroots, modest concept has grown on Wirral to become a key player in the mental health, culture, and voluntary fields. We now influence strategy within statutory working, work with the LA and NHS to help to unpick traditional problems which exist within Wirral and provide dynamic, impactful support and culture events and activities free of charge with no waiting lists.

We are now at a transition point, one in which we are moving from being a regionally significant voice in this sector to an organisation which influences nationally. At the same time strengthening and reinvigorating our Wirral provisions. To make this a success we much recruit exceptional people into new and exciting roles, and would love you to be involved".

Lee Pennington - Director, Open Door Charity



Our Future

Open Door Charity has been through a significant period of development over the past three years; we've taken on new projects and commissioned services supporting families and care experienced young people, we've significantly grown our staff and volunteer team and operate from two main sites in Birkenhead. We have just established a new senior leadership team, are governed by a strong board of trustees and have recently celebrated our twelve-year anniversary. We have some exciting projects in the pipeline and now is a great time to join the Open Door Charity.

A Place to Develop

Open Door Charity strives to be the best job you ever have. We understand when you recruit passionate, driven and ambitious people we won't be the last stop in your career journey. We are committed to ensuring your time with us is as transformational and developmental as it can be.

The ways we achieve this include:

- Access to networking events within the third sector and beyond.
- Access to training opportunities within your role.
- Regular one to one meetings with your line manager.





Role: Mental Health and Well-being Practitioner (OOMOO)

Working pattern: Full or part time can be considered for this role, minimum working hours 25 hours per week.

Full time: 37.5 hours per week, Monday - Friday (11-7pm) and one Saturday (daytime) per month. Flexibility for out of hours events.

OR

Part time: 25 hours per week, working pattern mainly 11am-7pm on weekdays and one Saturday (daytime) per month. Flexibility for out of hours events.

Location: Birkenhead

Contract type: Temporary contract running until the 31st March 2025 (dependent on passing a successful 3-month probationary period, demonstrating ODC values and excellent execution of responsibilities).

Reports to: Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead Practitioner (OOMOO)

Salary: £22,308 FT, £14,872 PT

Other benefits:

- 25 days annual leave (excluding bank holidays)
- £20 monthly wellbeing budget
- Monthly reflective practice with a clinical psychologist
- Weekly yoga
- Opportunity to take part in quarterly team away days
- Cycle to work scheme



OOMOO Overview

OOMOO is a bespoke and unique specialist service that provides a mix of trauma-informed, wellbeing and nurture support by focusing on positive attachments and specialist mental health support for CLA, as well as clinical review and intervention. We deliver a varied programme of creative activities to improve the mental health and wellbeing of CLA. Our aim is to be innovative and adapt to the ever-changing and evolving world that young people live in. We promote positive and sustainable relationship-building for young people to improve placement stability, and support CLA to achieve their full potential and become well-rounded, independent adults with a positive outlook for their future. Our staff are trained in relationship-based and trauma-informed approaches and improving mental health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for young people, with an emphasis on building positive attachments with professionals that they can relate to. Our service offers a variety of support, weekly events, and activities to provide increased opportunities for CLA to engage, including:

- A physical programme to promote exercise and physical wellbeing i.e. boxing, aerial, yoga, dance.
- A creative programme to promote self-expression i.e. music, creative writing, art, anime.
- A mindfulness programme to promote positive mental health i.e. CBT.

Job Purpose

- To deliver a programme of creative wellbeing activities that support the emotional health and wellbeing support for Children Looked After (CLA) aged 11-18 years old.
- To confidently support and provide guidance to professionals who support these young people.
- To provide trauma-informed, wellbeing and nurture support that focuses on positive attachments with professionals that they can relate to.
- To promote positive and sustainable relationship building for young people to improve placement stability, support CLA to achieve their full potential, and to become well-rounded adults independent adults with a positive outlook for their future.



Responsibilities

- To deliver front line work and activities directly with CLA, building strong relationships, having impactful conversation, and thereby shaping change in their mental health.
- Deliver targeted mental health support, such as Bazaar, to our members.
- Ensure young people have a good experience on site and that these are captured.
- Working as a team to create a welcoming and member-focused environment where the number one priority is to make young people feel safe, i.e. Maintaining the presentation and functioning of OOMOO venue.
- Managing referrals and making initial contact with new members.
- Co-ordinate, encourage and oversee young people's engagement in our service: welcoming members, sending reminder texts, managing cancellations, keeping members and professionals informed, updating bookings schedule, answering and making phonecalls, responding to emails and voicemails, etc.
- To work with professionals and carers in an inclusive, supportive, and empowering way to enable them to support the child or young person.
- To work with young people in an inclusive, supportive, and empowering way, ensuring that all systems and processes are responsive to young people.
- Understanding young people's needs and how we can meet them whilst capturing barriers in terms of accessing the service to work together on alternative solutions.
- Using existing safeguarding processes to facilitate sound safeguarding, e.g. Safety Plans, Record of Concerns etc. and escalating to an OOMOO Safeguarding Lead where needed.
- Signposting to external partners where needed, e.g. social care, local third sector organisations, emergency services etc.
- Ensuring thorough handovers and updating CRM systems to ensure up-to-date notes.



You will be a great fit if...

You have these qualifications...

- Psychology, health, or social care undergraduate degree. (D)

You have this experience...

- Experience of working or volunteering within the children's or adults' mental health or emotional health and wellbeing system (E)
- Experience of working directly with children, young people, and those supporting them (D)
- Experience of handling general safeguarding concerns and the ability to make sound judgements with rationale for the safeguarding decisions (E)
- Experience of supporting children or adults with their Emotional Health Wellbeing in a therapeutic setting (D)
- Experience of using a CRM system to record, manage and utilise data (D)

You have these skills...

- Ability to develop trusting relationships with young people and handling difficult conversations directly and sensitively (E)
- Highly organised and able to manage a busy and varied workload (E)
- Excellent people skills and ability to work well as part of a team and with people from varied backgrounds (E)
- Self-reliant IT skills, in particular Microsoft Office programmes (E)

You demonstrate these behaviours...

- Good awareness and understanding of mental health and the desire to encourage, welcome and support people to receive help (E)
- An enthusiastic attitude and willingness to learn and undertake training (E)
- Professional approach to work and ability to work with external partners (E)
- Ability to set boundaries when providing support to others (E)
- Self-motivated with an ability to work with autonomy and initiative (E)
- A good understanding of safeguarding principles (E)
- Understanding of trauma and ability to work in trauma informed way (D)
- Understanding of the risks and issues children in care may face (D)
- Working knowledge of local support organisations (D)





We are committed to having a diverse workforce and promoting equality, this is a work in progress, and we know we still have a way to go. We value and respect all differences in all people (seen and unseen) and we aspire to inclusive working experiences and an environment that reflects the communities we serve, where our people have equal access to opportunities, their voices are heard and they can contribute to our future. We actively encourage applications from care leavers, BAME and LGBTQ+ candidates, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and those with a disability. If you are called for interview and have any accessibility requirements, please let us know.

To register your interest, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter through to vacancies@opendoorcharity.com. For more information, please contact Alex Williams, our Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead Practitioner at OOMOO (alex@opendoorcharity.com).

This opportunity closes at midnight on Sunday, 19th May 2024.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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