

**NW Thames Foundation School**

**Individual Placement Description**

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| **Placement** | FY1 Liaison Psychiatry |
| **The department** | The Department of Liaison Psychiatry was established in 1989 by Central and North West London Mental Health (NHS) Trust to provide a high quality consultation-liaison service at this leading central London Hospital. The team provides a 24-hour service to the Emergency Department at Chelsea and Westminster. This department is the main point of access for many people presenting with acute mental health problems. As a member of the team your primary role will be to assess inpatient and outpatient referrals from a range of specialties.  Indications for referral include:   * Deliberate self harm * Disorders of mood – depression, anxiety, mania * Psychological reactions to physical illness * Psychotic illness * Medically unexplained symptoms and somatisation * Acute behavioural disturbance due to delirium |
| **Trust & Site** | Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust, South Kensington & Chelsea Mental Health Centre, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital |
| **The type of work to expect and learning opportunities** | This is great opportunity for FY1 trainees whether they want to pursue psychiatry as a career or not. The majority of medical school graduates are not going to pursue psychiatry as a career but with mental illness being as prevalent as 30% in the general hospital setting, all of them will be faced with having to manage mental health issues in their patients for their entire careers.  Liaison psychiatry will give them experience in the type of mental health issues that they will encounter and equip them with the skills to enable them to manage these issues alongside the physical co-morbidity for which they have sought medical help in the first instance.  This post provides experience in liaison psychiatry in a major London teaching hospital with a large Accident & Emergency Department and several internationally recognised specialist units, including HIV and Burns. Liaison Psychiatry is provided by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust and the FY1 will therefore have close links both with staff in the dedicated local mental health provider and those in the general acute trust at Chelsea and Westminster. The FY1, working closely with a Core trainee and another FY1and SpR (ST4-6) will be involved in assessment and management of patients in the general hospital, as well as providing support to the Emergency Department service. The FY1 will also have the opportunity to gain experience of the assessment and management of perinatal mental disorders, working under the supervision of a Consultant in Perinatal Psychiatry.  Working in liaison psychiatry is an interesting and often challenging experience. The reason for referral is often not straightforward and clinical presentations are frequently complex. Providing a psychiatric diagnosis is usually just the starting point – that is, one element in the ‘biopsychosocial’ jigsaw.  The team have developed projects in areas where we have proactively identified a need for high quality psychiatric input in order to promote better patient outcomes as well as alleviate the burden on health services. One of these projects is a collaboration with Emergency Department colleagues on a ‘Frequent Attenders Project’ looking at the identifying and ensuring the appropriate care pathway is delineated for frequent attenders to the Emergency Department.  The trainee would be encouraged to contribute to any of our ongoing projects and would be supervised to develop the relevant skills around audit or research as appropriate.  This is an exciting time for the service which is continually developing at a fast pace. Therefore the configuration of staff and exact details of the posts may undergo changes in order to facilitate the service development. |
| **Clinical Supervisor(s) for the placement** | Dr Catalan & Dr Williams – Consultant Liaison Psychiatrists  Staffing in the Department of Liaison Psychiatry consists of:   * 1 Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist Whole time equivalent, 2 people split 5:6 PA * 1 Liaison Team Manager * 1 Deputy Liaison Team Manager * 1 SpR (ST4-6) * 1 Core Trainee Doctor * 2 FY1 Doctors * 7 Psychiatric Liaison Nurses * 1 Team Administrator |
| **Main duties of the placement** | * See inpatients referred from medical and surgical services as well as patients from the Emergency Department at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital * With senior clinical support will aim to achieve 6 competencies (based on core trainee competencies) * Attend weekly one hour supervision sessions, which will be conducted by the Liaison Psychiatry Consultant and also attend daily multi-disciplinary liaison meetings/ward rounds in accordance to their timetable. * Engage in teaching activities both for medical students and for the acute trust staff. * Engage in small projects suited to their level of training and this will be supervised by the consultant. * Liaise with the staff of other services and organizations within the voluntary and statutory sectors advising on patient matters as appropriate. * Liaise with the parties providing out of hours psychiatry input at both sites, to ensure adequate clinical handover at the beginning and end of each working day. * The FY1 will be fully involved in the process of medical and clinical audit within the Acute Directorate of the Trust and participate as appropriate to the process of Clinical Governance. * The post-holder retains individual professional accountability for his/her practice and should at all times observe relevant codes of practice, particularly those relating to the obligations under the Mental Health Act 1983 and Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995.   Supervision:   * The clinical supervisor will provide weekly educational supervision and consultants will provide clinical supervision during weekly ward rounds. The consultants will also be available at all times to discuss issues that may arise (either of a clinical or non-clinical nature). During periods of absence, clinical supervision and accountability will be provided by the covering consultant.   Teaching  The FY1 would be expected to participate in the teaching of medical students attached to the team. The post-holder would also be encouraged, with supervision if required, to teach acute trust staff in tutorial or seminar settings. |
| **Typical working pattern in this placement** | Mornings  Mon: Assessments and Reviews on wards/A+E  Tues: Assessments and Reviews on wards/A+E  Wed: Team meetings/Academic session  Thurs: Assessments and Reviews on the wards/A+E  Fri: Assessments and Reviews on the wards/A+E  Afternoons  Mon: Assessments and Reviews on wards/A+E  Tues: Outpatient Clinic  Wed: Clinical reviews  Thurs: Clinical reviews  Fri: Assessments and Reviews on ward/A+E (Clinical reviews. Acute Trust (C&W) teaching session with fellow F1s.)    There are no on call commitments in this placement. |
| **Employer information** | The trainee will remain an employee of Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Trust while in this placement but will have an honorary contract with CNWL. |

It is important to note that this description is a typical example of your placement and may be subject to change.