**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**JOB TITLE:** Specialist Adviser on Mental Health and Mental Capacity Law (England & Wales)

**TERM OF OFFICE:** Five Years from September 2022 to June 2027

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** Registrar

**WORKING WITH:**

 **Governance** Policy and Public Affairs Committee

**Management** Policy and Campaigns Team

**RESPONSIBLE FOR:** RCPsych work on MH Law in England and Wales

**ELECTED/APPOINTED:** Appointed

**TIME COMMITMENT:** 1 day per month

**SALARY:** Voluntary

**JOB PURPOSE**

To provide leadership and advice on mental health and mental capacity law (England and Wales) and its impact on psychiatric practice.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. To promote and uphold the College values of Courage, Innovation, Respect, Collaboration, Learning and Excellence.
2. To liaise with the Registrar, and with the Mental Health Act Oversight and Steering Group, on matters relating to mental health and mental capacity law. In particular, to provide advice and support to the College Policy & Campaigns Team and the Public Affairs Manager in relation to amendments to, and implementation of, mental health and mental capacity law.
3. To work with the College Policy & Campaigns Team to develop policy positions and responses on relevant issues arising from mental health or mental capacity legislation and to write and give oral evidence to parliamentary Select Committees/ Pre-Legislative Scrutiny Committees.
4. To represent the College internally and externally in England and Wales (in liaison with the Vice President of the College in Wales) as an authority on all areas relating to the Mental Health Acts (1983 and 2007), the Mental Capacity Act (2005), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards/Liberty Protection Safeguards and other relevant legislation, and to liaise and share learning with other UK jurisdictions as necessary.
5. To communicate College views and positions on matters related to mental health and mental capacity law to the media.
6. To provide regular updates to the College membership on the implementation of recent and future revisions in the application of mental health and mental capacity law.
7. To build a relationship with the Care Quality Commission on issues related to setting and monitoring standards in the application of mental health law.
8. To provide brief updates to the Policy and Public Affairs Committee meetings, and to produce a full report for Council at the end of each year in office.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**Essential**

* Successful completion of the College MRCPsych examination
* In good standing with the College and for Continuing Professional Development
* Demonstrable in-depth knowledge of mental health and mental capacity law and its application in practice
* Commitment to the role
* Ability to prioritise a range of tasks and to balance College work with a clinical role

**Desirable**

* A relevant academic qualification
* Experience of leading groups and projects

**THE COLLEGE VALUES**

Courage

• Champion the specialty of psychiatry and its benefits to patients

• Take every opportunity to promote and influence the mental health agenda

• Take pride in our organisation and demonstrate self‐belief

• Promote parity of esteem

• Uphold the dignity of those affected by mental illness, intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders.

Innovation

• Embrace innovation and improve ways to deliver services

• Challenge ourselves and be open to new ideas

• Seek out and lead on new, evidence‐based, ways of working

• Have the confidence to take considered risks

• Embrace the methodology of Quality Improvement to improve mental health services and the work of the College.

Respect

• Promote diversity and challenge inequalities

• Behave respectfully – and with courtesy – towards everyone

• Challenge bullying and inappropriate behaviour

• Value everyone’s input and ideas equally

• Consider how own behaviour might affect others

• Respect the environment and promote sustainability.

Collaboration

• Work together as One College – incorporating all members, employees, patients and carers

• Work professionally and constructively with partner organisations

• Consult all relevant audiences to achieve effective outcomes for the College

• Work together with patients and carers as equal partners

• Be transparent, wherever possible and appropriate.

Learning

• Learn from all experiences

• Share our learning and empower others to do the same

• Value and encourage personal feedback

• Use feedback to make continuous improvements

• Create an enabling environment where everyone is listened to, regardless of seniority

• Positively embrace new ways of working.

Excellence

• Deliver outstanding service to members, patients, carers and other stakeholders

• Promote excellent membership and employee experience

• Always seek to improve on own performance

• Promote professionalism by acting with integrity and behaving responsibly

• Demonstrate accountability in all that we do

• Uphold the College’s ‘Core Values for Psychiatrists’.

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| **INTERNAL COLLEGE CONTACTS:** |
| * Department: Strategic Communications
* Section/Project: Policy and Campaigns Team
* Name of Contact: Thomas Rutherfoord
* Job Title: Policy and Campaigns Officer
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July 2022.