



Falkland Islands Government – Job Description

Job Title:	Speech & Language Therapist (Paediatric Focus)		
Department:	Health & Social Services	Section:	Speech & Language Therapy
Reports to:	Senior Speech & Language Therapist		
Grade:	Falkland Islands Government Grade - C	Job Code:	219STA

Job Purpose

To assess, diagnose, and treat children in the Falkland Islands with a wide range of speech and language communication difficulties. This will include acquired and developmental disorders and to provide direct and indirect therapy as required. The caseload may include a small number of adults with developmental or acquired disorders of communication and swallowing.

The postholder will also be responsible for delivering training to other FIG staff as required and to assist or cover for the Senior Speech and Language Therapist when required.

Main Accountabilities:

- Independently assess speech and language abilities of individual clients, identify problem areas and formulate and deliver treatment plans. The caseload will consist of children up to 18 years of age. The majority will be between 2 – 12 years.
- Manage the caseload including prioritising and tailoring therapy to individual needs in appropriate settings e.g. within the school classroom, hospital, childcare centres, patients' homes, in camp (countryside) etc.
- Maintain comprehensive and accurate assessment and treatment records for clients as per local record management policies.
- Monitor the progress of clients to ensure that treatment given is appropriate and effective.
- Liaise and collaborate with Education Department colleagues (especially the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and special needs teachers) to ensure that the specific needs of children with speech and language difficulties are properly catered for within available resources and to support their integration into mainstream education.
- Work closely with parents to establish, develop and deliver appropriate and functionally relevant therapy.
- Participate in the provision of continuing professional development and teaching on speech and language issues for health and education staff to maintain and improve the skills available.
- Participate in relevant team meetings to advise on speech and language therapy issues and related health matters.
- Assist with advocacy for people with communication difficulties in the community and raise awareness of their needs, in order to increase inclusion, understanding and acceptance in all areas of society.



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Main Accountabilities:

- Plan and participate in parent support and education programmes to ensure that parents feel involved and the education programmes are relevant for use.
- Provide cover for the Senior Speech and Language Therapist as appropriate including providing care for adults with developmental or acquired disorders of communication (and swallowing if the S< has relevant dysphagia training).

The job description is not an exclusive or exhaustive definition of your duties. You shall undertake such additional or other duties as may reasonably be required by FIG commensurate with your role and grade.

Additional Information:

The Falkland Islands population is around 3,700, with 3,000 of those living in Stanley. The remainder live out in 'Camp' some on outlying islands, accessible only by the local Government Air Service. There is a relatively high level of speech and language needs in the community. Health and social services are integrated within a single government department. Primary and secondary care services are also fully integrated and are based in the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. The Speech and Language Therapy service provides services to a range of clients including children and adults with physical and/or learning disabilities, including ASD; people with hearing impairments; adults and older people with swallowing and communication problems following stroke, acquired brain injury, dementia, etc. The Senior S< also manages and runs the audiology service.

The S< will also be part of a large integrated team, which includes the Senior Speech and Language Therapist, SENCo, SEN Teachers, Doctors, Nurses, Health Visitor, School Nurse, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Social Workers, Clinical Psychologist and the Emotional Wellbeing service/ Most of the S<'s work will take place in the two mainstream schools i.e. Infant & Junior School & Community School and in the Nurseries and the home setting. All students are educated in a mainstream setting in the Falkland Islands. This includes a number of integrated, specialized units which provide bespoke education. There may be some time spent working with outpatients at the hospital and working on a hospital ward.

The position also covers a service to children living in Camp (outside of Stanley), so visits by road or plane to remote settlement to reach those children may be needed and overnight stays are occasionally necessary.

There is a small but growing caseload of early years patients; school age population in the Falkland Islands is approximately 500 children. Of this number approximately 10% are on the speech and language therapy caseload. This includes a number of pupils with complex needs i.e. autism, significant learning disability and AAC users. The Senior S< also has an adult caseload.



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Criminal Record Checks: This post is regarded as sensitive

All applicants for Government posts will be asked to disclose convictions upon application. Criminal records will only be considered for recruitment purposes when the conviction record is relevant. Having an 'unspent' conviction will not necessarily bar a candidate from employment. This will depend on the circumstances and background to the offence(s).

Any information given will be completely treated as confidential and will be considered only in relation to the post to which the application refers.

Failure by a candidate to reveal information that is directly relevant to the post applied for could lead to the withdrawal of an offer of employment.



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Person Specification:	Speech & Language Therapist (Paediatric Focus)		
Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Education and Qualifications:			
Qualified Speech & Language Therapist and member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and/or Speech Pathology Australia or equivalent	✓		A
Current Professional registration with the HCPC	✓		A
Post-graduate qualifications in Speech & Language Therapy and or evidence of training in relevant therapy or assessment procedures		✓	A
Experience in managing eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties		✓	A/I
Skills & Experience:			
Minimum of five years' experience working as a speech and language therapist, with at least 3 of those working with a paediatric caseload	✓		A/R
Computer skills and ability to use S< programs & apps	✓		A/I
Good computer literacy, including in the use of common Microsoft Office programmes such as Outlook, Excel and Word	✓		A/R
Experience and enthusiasm for working in a mainstream school environment (3-16 years); and working alongside special needs teachers, teachers, classroom assistants and learning support assistants		✓	A/I/R
Experience in working in a speech & language therapy service in a rural or remote location or a good understanding of the benefits and challenges of such a position		✓	I/R
Experience working in a special school setting		✓	A/I
Knowledge of hearing impairment		✓	I/R
Broad Speech & Language Therapy paediatric and adult experience		✓	I
Experience in supporting clients with a variety of AAC needs		✓	A/I/R
Personal Attributes:			
A commitment to maintaining an up-to-date skillset, including through continuing professional development	✓		A/I



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Person Specification:	Speech & Language Therapist (Paediatric Focus)		
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Personal Attributes:			
Demonstrates excellent interpersonal skills; including observation, listening and empathy sensitivity, tact, diplomacy, teamworking	✓		I/R
Able and willing to travel to remote settlements by light aircraft	✓		I/R
Ability and commitment to undergo further training as required and be proactive in identifying training needs	✓		I/R
Able to establish and maintain good communication pathways in a timely manner with all professionals involved with the patient pathway	✓		I/R
Ability to convey ideas and information in a confident and easily understood manner, both written and verbal	✓		I/R
Adaptable, independent, problem solving 'can do' approach, able to work in a varied and changing work environment in a remote location	✓		I/R
An enthusiasm for and interest in working as a generalist S<		✓	I
Able to communicate effectively what can be done in the Islands, with a solution-based approach to match expectation with what can be delivered here		✓	I

Method of Assessment:

A - Application Form
I - Selection Interview
R - Reference