# Hosting Proforma

Ref: I/C 39/24

Education Authority

Name of Host

Organisation

**1. Interchange Manager’s details**

Mary Lowery

Name

Organisation/

Specialist Setting Support Team

Department

Antrim Board Centre

17 Lough Road

Antrim

BT41 4DH

Address

Telephone Fax number

07970406493

Number

Mary.lowery@eani.org.uk

E-mail

Type of Opportunity

SECONDMENT - Occupational Therapists (x3)

**2. Details of hosting opportunity**

Description of opportunity

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| We are seeking three **Occupational Therapists** to join the EA Specialist Setting Support Team. This is a regional multi-service team providing integrated support for specialist provisions in mainstream schools. We are seeking to appoint three full-time equivalent experienced and enthusiastic candidates who are interested in enhancing our team’s provision through the expertise they will bring.  **Contract Type**  Secondment opportunity (May be subject to extension or may be reduced for any valid reason)  **Duration of Contract/Contract End Date**  30 June 2025  **Status**  Full-Time  **Hours per Week**  36 hours per week\*    \*please note seconded applicants will remain on their current hours/terms and conditions.  **Working Pattern**  Monday - Friday  *A range of flexible or part time working arrangements may be considered.*  *A base location will be determined on appointment (current clinic base may be considered).*  As the role carries regional responsibility, travel across Northern Ireland will be required to fulfil the full range of duties and responsibilities associated with the post. The successful applicants will be required to have access to a vehicle which will facilitate this work.  The team supports Specialist Provision classes in mainstream schools. These provisions cater for pupils with a range of special educational needs, for example, Learning Needs, Down Syndrome, Autism, Social, Behavioural and Emotional Well-being needs, Complex medical needs, and Global Developmental Delay. We aim to provide the staff in these settings with high quality specialist professional learning and support. We ensure that staff in both new and established settings are effectively supported in meeting the challenge of delivering high quality provision and educational experiences for children and young people.  Staff work across multiple schools to provide professional learning opportunities, advice and in-setting support to leaders, teachers, and classroom assistants. We offer a wide range of professional learning and development programmes for all settings. The team provides advice, support and consultation, as well as whole class and small group modelling and demonstration sessions for new settings. Specialist short term individual support and/or consultation is offered for a small number of pupils, where needed. |

Main objectives of the opportunity

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| To provide Occupational Therapy support/advice and training to staff working with children with SEN in specialist provisions;  To contribute to the development and delivery of an in-service training programme for educational professionals to promote the capacity building of staff in specialist settings;  To promote and develop effective partnerships with parents to support their children’s learning, achievement and development by contributing to the development of training/ information sessions for parents;  To contribute to the quality monitoring and evaluation of aspects of SSST provision in promoting positive outcomes for service users;  To collaborate with staff and parents to provide assessment, intervention and progress monitoring for children in specialist settings;  To provide and facilitate the delivery and modelling of a range of interventions that are deemed to be appropriate to meet the needs of the individual child;  To maintain a key role in relation to children who require more specific support, for example, the development and implementation of an individualised home- or setting-based support programme. |

**3. Skills requirements**

What qualities, skills and experience is required from the individual

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| The ideal candidates will:   * Be experienced in working with children with SEN in school or clinic settings; * Have demonstrable success in offering Occupational Therapy Services to children with SEN; * Have a minimum of 2 years’ post qualification experience. * Have experience of the sensory integration needs of children with SEN; * Be able to work effectively as a member of a team, with a pro-active and flexible approach; * Be able to manage a complex workload, prioritise and meet deadlines; * Be proactive in proposing service development; * Have excellent written and oral communication skills and attention to detail. |

**4. Personnel: Please state below**

Who will the individual report to?

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| Joanne Hardy Head of Service Specialist Setting Support Team |

Who will be the individual’s line manager and/or reporting officer?

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| Joanne Hardy |

**5. Transfer of learning**

Please give details of how the Opportunity will benefit your organisation, the

individual and their organisation.

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| Current pressures experienced by Allied Health Professional (AHP) in Northern Ireland mean limited support is available to children in specialist provisions. Some specialist provisions with special school places in a mainstream setting, who cater for children with complex needs and Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) are not accessing AHP support, as they are not partnered with a special school. Children in these settings are, therefore, significantly disadvantaged due to a lack of equitable support.  We aim to help reduce the pressure on AHP in Health Trusts in these settings by providing Occupational Health support from EA services. This would benefit the children and young people by providing them with access to support, while reducing pressure on Health Trusts to provide it.  We aim to broaden professional learning opportunities for colleagues in the Specialist settings Support Team and staff in specialist settings, by drawing on the expertise of the Occupational Therapists. Through this, we aim to build capacity of the teaching and support staff in specialist settings to meet the needs of the children they are supporting.  Regarding the development of the Occupational Therapist joining the SSST, the colleague will work seamlessly with current specialists in team in a transdisciplinary model sharing and learning skills from the range of different specialist staff already in the team. The colleague joining SSST through Interchange will develop greater awareness and understanding of these different specialisms through sharing of information and best practice. Embedded transdisciplinary approaches can have a positive impact on the wider education practice and provision and skills learned can be brought back to substantive roles to enhance skill set of current existing health team. |

**6. Logistics**

Please provide details of the likely start date, duration, location, form of transport required, resources (i.e.; desk, PC, etc.) and funding arrangements for the opportunity.

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| **Start Date**: It is hoped the successful candidates will commence on Sept 2024  **Duration**: It is expected the posts will last until June 2025 with the possibility of an extension.  **Location**: Regional (locality base will be determined) and the successful candidate will require access to a suitable form of transport.  **Funding**: The successful candidate will transfer at their current salary and the costs - including any associated travel - will be recouped from the EA.  **Further information**: Please contact either Mary Lowery by email at [Mary.lowery@eani.org.uk](mailto:Mary.lowery@eani.org.uk) or Joanne Hardy at: [joanne.hardy@eani.org](mailto:joanne.hardy@eani.org).  **Closing Date:** Applications must be submitted by **5.00pm on Friday 05 July 2024** to**:**  **For NI Civil Service departmental staff only:** [**secondments@hrconnect.nigov.net**](mailto:secondments@hrconnect.nigov.net)  **For staff from all other Organisations:**  [**interchangesecretariat@finance-ni.gov.uk**](mailto:interchangesecretariat@finance-ni.gov.uk) |

**7. Endorsement**

**Interchange Manager**

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| **Mary Lowery** |

**Signed:**

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| **14 June 2024** |

**Date:**