



Association for Family &  
Systemic Psychotherapy

# AFSP Recommended Band 8a Job Description

**Effective from: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Job Title:</b>	<i>Principal Family Therapist</i>
<b>Grade:</b>	<i>Band 8b</i>
<b>Specialty and place of work:</b>	*
<b>Hours of Work:</b>	*
<b>Department:</b>	*
<b>Professionally Accountable to:</b>	Professional Lead Psychological Therapies / Consultant Family and Systemic Psychotherapist
<b>Operationally Accountable to:</b>	Head of Psychological Services
<b>Reports to:</b>	*

\*To be added as appropriate for specific post

## **JOB PURPOSE**

To provide highly specialist systemic assessments and therapeutic interventions for referred families. The role involves ensuring the systematic provision of Family and Systemic Psychotherapy, supervising professionals, and leading service development initiatives.



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## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Conduct highly specialised systemic assessments, utilizing genograms, eco-maps, and other tools.
2. Provide risk assessments and tailored therapeutic interventions for individuals, families, and groups.
3. Work with diverse family structures and cultural backgrounds, ensuring culturally competent service delivery.
4. Develop and implement comprehensive treatment plans, adjusting based on family dynamics and progress.
5. Provide consultation and systemic advice to multi-disciplinary teams and partner agencies.
6. Act as a care coordinator when required, leading case planning and professional network meetings.
7. Organise and oversee specialist Family Therapy clinics, offering live and retrospective supervision.
8. Maintain clear clinical records and adhere to organisational policies and ethical guidelines.

### TEACHING, TRAINING, AND SUPERVISION:

1. Supervise trainee and qualified family therapists, clinical psychology trainees, and other professionals.
2. Provide specialist systemic training and professional development for colleagues and partner agencies.
3. Lead systemic psychotherapy supervision groups.



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## MANAGEMENT AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT:

1. Contribute to policy development, service evaluation, and audit initiatives.
2. Advise on systemic psychotherapy practices within the organisation.
3. Assist in recruitment and professional development of staff.
4. Manage systemic family therapy resources, including video recording equipment.
5. Monitor and evaluate systemic approaches within the service, ensuring high standards of care.
6. Lead or participate in shortlisting, interviewing, and selection processes for relevant staff.
7. Play a role in managing referrals and waiting times within the service.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Maintain UKCP registration and adhere to professional development requirements.
2. Receive regular clinical supervision from a suitably experienced and UKCP/AFSP registered systemic psychotherapist.
3. Participate in annual personal development and appraisal reviews.
4. Stay updated with legislation, ethical standards, and professional best practices.

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

1. Lead and participate in clinical research, service audits, and development projects.
2. Use evidence-based approaches and contribute to systemic psychotherapy research.
3. Ensure the incorporation of NICE guidelines and best practices in clinical work.
4. Supervise and support trainees in research projects.



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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- Postgraduate qualification in a relevant mental health or social welfare profession.
- Master's or Doctoral level qualification in Family Systemic Psychotherapy.
- UKCP registration as a systemic family therapist.
- Evidence of Continuing Professional Development.

### EXPERIENCE

- Significant experience and relevant practice in a relevant health or social care setting as a Family and Systemic Psychotherapist.
- Experience in multi-disciplinary teams, risk assessments, and managing complex cases.
- Experience in receiving and delivering live and retrospective supervision.

### SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Expertise in systemic assessment and interventions across individuals, families, and groups.
- Ability to communicate complex clinical information effectively in sensitive contexts.
- Skills in professional supervision and multi-disciplinary consultation.
- Up-to-date knowledge of legislation, child development, and mental health issues.
- Ability to manage high-stress environments and complex relational dynamics.
- Knowledge of child protection policies and safeguarding procedures.
- Strong organisational and leadership skills in service development and delivery.



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### DESIRABLE

- Clinical supervision training and registration as a Clinical Supervisor with AFSP.
- Experience in leadership, management, and service development.
- Experience of conducting clinical research and service evaluation.
- Training and experience in multi-agency working and partnership collaboration.

**\*\*This job description will be reviewed regularly to reflect service needs and evolving professional standards.\*\***