JOB DESCRIPTION

Post:	Mental Health Nurse
Hours:	14 hours per week
Location:	Hybrid. Central London, homeworking, and travel across England.
Responsible To:	Chief Executive
Salary:	£42,000 which is £16,800 for 14 hours per week
Contract:	Permanent

We are an exceptional Citizens Advice and Law Centre delivering national legal advice and support services, both front line and second tier, to people unable to afford legal representation and advice. We are based within the Royal Courts of Justice, the Central London Family Court and community sites where we deliver local Citizens Advice services.

Miscarriage of Justice Support Service

The Miscarriage of Justice Support Service (MJSS) is the only national service in England and Wales providing specialist support to people affected by miscarriages of justice. Our role is to support individuals whose criminal convictions have been quashed by the Court of Appeal in England or Wales following a referral from the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) or and an out-of-time appeal.

Many clients have spent many years, and sometimes decades, in prison before their convictions were overturned. As a result many experience complex trauma, institutionalisation and significant challenges associated with release and reintegration (post-incarceration syndrome).

We have supported individuals affected by wrongful convictions since 2002. In that time, we have built a deep understanding of the lasting trauma of wrongful imprisonment, and the complex challenges people face after release. Our service is free, confidential, and impartial and we remain wholly independent of the legal, judicial and statutory systems.

Why Our Service Is Needed

Miscarriages of justice exist in every justice system. Through our work, we see first-hand that the system in England and Wales sometimes gets it wrong, often with devastating and long-lasting consequences for those affected.

Our work is grounded in the belief that those affected by miscarriages of justice deserve not only to have their convictions overturned, but to be supported with dignity, continuity, and recognition as they rebuild their lives.

When someone's conviction is quashed, they are released immediately, if still in custody, often with no prior notice and no access to statutory resettlement services. Because their conviction has been overturned, they are no longer eligible for probation support and may leave prison without housing, financial support, or a clear plan in place.

People affected by miscarriages of justice often face significant and long-term challenges:

- **Housing** – Many leave prison into homelessness or unstable accommodation.
- **Finances** – Delays in accessing benefits and lack of income create immediate hardship.
- **Health** – Complex mental and physical health needs may have gone unmet during imprisonment and have been exacerbated by the wrongfulness of their detainment.
- **Isolation** – Relationships may have broken down, and the stigma of the original offence can persist, making community reintegration particularly difficult.

In addition to these practical challenges, many individuals feel profoundly isolated. Because of stigma, fear of disbelief, or ongoing emotional trauma, they may have no one else they feel able to talk to about their experience. In some cases, we may be the only people they speak to openly about what has happened to them. Our service provides not only practical assistance, but a vital opportunity to be heard and supported without judgment.

What We Do

We offer long-term, person-centred, trauma-informed support tailored to the needs of each individual. Our help may include:

- Securing appropriate accommodation
- Accessing welfare benefits and financial support
- Reinstating National Insurance credits for time spent wrongfully imprisoned
- Registering with a GP and accessing healthcare services
- Supporting access to emotional and psychological therapy
- Assisting with removal of wrongful convictions from the Police National Computer (PNC)

Support continues for as long as the individual needs it. For some, that means short-term help post-release. For many, it involves sustained, long-term support to try to rebuild a life interrupted by years of imprisonment.

We provide a safe, confidential space where individuals can begin to talk about what they've experienced often for the first time. That space, and the time we give to build trust, is vital to recovery.

Our support frequently begins before a conviction is overturned. When the CCRC refers a case to the Court of Appeal, they notify us, and we reach out to offer support. We are an opt-in service.

Where an individual is still in custody, we provide in-reach support including prison visits to start building a working relationship and developing a plan for life after release. Together, we explore housing options, health and emotional support needs, and any personal concerns, including the need to relocate due to media attention or personal safety.

About the Role

Working alongside the two MJSS Caseworkers, the specialist Mental Health Nurse will provide mental health assessments, psycho-social support and interventions to people affected by a serious miscarriages of justice.

The role includes support planning, delivery of interventions within professional competence, facilitating access to appropriate services, liaison with health and social care providers, and supporting individuals through key stages of their journey, including whilst waiting on their appeal to be heard (whilst still in prison), possible release from custody and community reintegration. The focus will be on MJSS clients but may expand to their family members or other close relations who can also be deeply affected by the client's incarceration and subsequent release.

The role recognises the distinctive psychological impact of wrongful conviction, including complex trauma, institutionalisation, loss of trust, loss of identity and social isolation. Many clients experience difficulties engaging with services and the postholder will be expected to adopt a flexible and relationship-based approach to support.

The postholder will also provide consultation, support and training to the MJSS staff and volunteers and contribute to the development of a psychologically informed and trauma-informed service.

The two Caseworkers are based at our offices within the Royal Courts of Justice in London. The team meet clients in person initially, to build a relationship, which will involve travel across England and Wales. Once a relationship has been established, typically we then communicate via telephone and online, but people may still need in-person support e.g. attending appointments with them.

Ideally the post-holder would come into the office at least several times a month to build and maintain an excellent working relationship with the Caseworkers, giving the option to work at other times from home or to travel. Travel for this role will vary according to the needs of each client, but we expect this to be round once a fortnight. All travel expenses will be paid by RCJ Advice.

This post is subject to a DBS check.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

JOB PURPOSE

Key Responsibilities

- Undertake mental health assessments and develop support plans.
- Provide mental health and psychosocial interventions within professional competence.

- Facilitate referrals into NHS, statutory, voluntary and community services.
- Advocate for clients experiencing barriers to support.
- Liaise with healthcare professionals and partner agencies.
- Support individuals through transition, release and reintegration.
- Provide support to family members and wider support networks where appropriate.
- Provide consultation, training and guidance to MJSS staff and volunteers.
- Maintain accurate records and comply with safeguarding requirements.
- Regular travel across England and Wales.
- Contribute to service development, monitoring and evaluation.
- Work in accordance with RCJ Advice policies, including safeguarding, confidentiality, data protection and equality and diversity policies.
- Participate in regular 1-1s, appraisals, file reviews, casework supervision, and peer discussions as needed.
- Undertake other duties as reasonably required and appropriate to the level of the post.

This list is not exhaustive and there may be other duties as reasonably required.

Person Specification

Essential

- Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN) with current NMC registration.
- Experience of mental health assessment and intervention.
- Experience working with adults experiencing complex mental health needs.
- Experience of multi-agency working and referrals into NHS services.
- Strong communication, assessment and advocacy skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively.

Desirable

- Experience within criminal justice, prison, forensic or community mental health settings.
- Knowledge of the psychological impact of miscarriages of justice.
- Experience providing training, consultation or professional support to colleagues.

Clinical Supervision

The postholder will receive regular clinical and reflective supervision from an appropriately qualified mental health professional and will work within the limits of their professional competence and professional regulatory requirements.