

## **Housing and Health Occupational Therapist Job Description**

**Job title: Housing and Health Occupational Therapist**

**Grade: Level 4 Zone 1**

### **About Camden**

Camden is building somewhere everyone can thrive, by making our borough the best place to live, work, study and visit. Because we're not just home to the UK's fast-growing economy. We're home to the most important conversations happening today. And we're making radical social change a reality, so that nobody gets left behind. Here's where you can help decide a better future for us all.

The ambition set out in We Make Camden is that everyone in Camden should have a place they call home, and the vision for Housing Services is to work deep into our neighbourhoods and within our communities to plan and continuously improve our services with people who use and rely on them, to deliver those services in an informed and responsive manner, and to ensure that provision of safe, secure and sustainable housing is a key pillar of Camden's work to increase social equality and achieve the best outcomes for Camden residents.

### **About the role:**

The Housing and Health Occupational Therapist plays a pivotal role with providing a timely, supportive, and efficient housing and health assessments service to residents applying to Council Housing Register in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme and providing support to residents with disabilities, long term health conditions, or age-related needs.

### **Key duties of the role:**

To conduct assessments of individuals in their homes to determine their health-related housing needs for the purpose of the council's formal decisions under parts 6 and 7 of the Housing Act, in accordance with statutory guidance and council policy, and within formal timescales.

To contribute to the development and the review of council policies and procedures in relation to health and housing and to support the development of a housing culture in which officers can better understand health and disability issues and the implementation of the Equality Act in housing related decisions.

To liaise with other health and social care professionals and to ensure information sharing and promoting an effective joined-up approach.

To proactively encourage the application of the London accessible housing register and to work proactively with developers and planners to maximise wheelchair

accessible homes built in the borough and to ensure that they comply with Camden's design brief.

To provide expert advice on all matters of vulnerability and suitable housing, in light of health and disability evidence and to support housing officers in making decisions on cases with health and disability aspects, including the application of the Equality Act to housing decisions.

To develop and deliver training for housing staff on disability awareness, accessible housing, and occupational therapy principles.

To provide reports and professional recommendations to temporary accommodation services, neighbourhoods area offices, and private housing providers to support housing adaptations and relocation where necessary.

To support housing departments initiatives to improve housing standards, particularly in relation to damp and mould, and overcrowding, which can have a negative impact on residents' health.

## **About you**

We're looking for someone who is enthusiastic about our ambition to make Camden the best place to live and work. You will be passionate about ensuring that services are delivered in a relational way, with the best outcomes for residents at its heart. You will work productively in partnership with RSL's, planners and developers regarding new social housing wheelchair units and other adaptations.

You will work collaboratively with colleagues across the Council, such as Adult Social Care, Housing Surveyors, Housing Partnerships, Allocations, Voids and Repairs Services, Children, Schools and Families and other partner agencies. You will effectively manage the council's relationships with any other external provider of medical assessments.

In addition:

## **Technical Knowledge and Experience:**

**A recognised qualification (Degree or Diploma) in Occupational Therapy and be registered with the Health Professions Council (HCPC).**

**You are passionate about housing equality:** You believe everyone has the right to a home that is decent, safe and warm, and to feel part of Camden's community.

**You are proactive:** You take action to address problems and support people as early as possible. You create change where change is needed, rather than waiting for change to happen and reacting to it.

**You keep services accessible:** You believe in working to make services approachable, transparent and easy – going the extra mile to meet the diverse

needs of residents. If there is something you can't help with, you will find someone who can.

**You take a caring approach:** You listen, understand and have others' concerns in mind. You are happiest when residents are.

**You believe in doing things together:** Collaborating and connecting are at the heart of what you do, ensuring no one gets left behind. You know that residents are the experts on the housing and services they want and need, and you make sure they are heart in the work that you do.

Here at Camden, we are committed to ensuring everyone has a place they can call home, the services you and your team deliver to our residents will recognise that as a landlord we are more than just bricks and mortar.

### **Skills Framework:**

**Proactive:** Helping to prevent issues arising for residents, intervening early to offer support and let residents know about any other services they may benefit from, and how to access them. Sharing and acting on feedback from residents, to keep improving our services. Keeping accurate and clear records, so colleagues can access all the information needed.

**Collaboration and communication:** Working in a joined-up way with other teams, to act as one Council. If you can't help, you know someone who can. Speaking with colleagues and residents in a kind and helpful way, conveying information clearly, listening actively and resolving conflicts, being responsive and flexible. Building positive relationships with the local community, understanding diverse support and access needs.

**Data, digital and systems:** Using relevant software and information systems including databases, property management software, and communication tools, is essential for efficient operations. Working with systems needed for the role, and an ability to record performance data in a clear and consistent way.

**Equality, diversity and inclusion:** Committed to, and will champion the council's ambition to make Camden a more equal, diverse and inclusive borough. An understanding of and respecting diverse cultural backgrounds, norms, and practices. An understanding of how to effectively engage with residents and stakeholders from various communities and promote inclusivity among team members and residents.

**Safety and wellbeing:** Understanding that safeguarding and health and safety are everyone's responsibility. Taking an active role in protecting residents' health, well-being, and human rights; enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect. Working effectively with survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Being trauma-informed and supporting psychological safety.

### **Key relationships**

You will be collaborating with several teams within the Council relating to housing such as Verifications, Temporary and Permanent Allocations, Housing Improvements, Homeless Prevention, Adult Social Care, Landlord Services, Housing Partnerships, Regeneration Teams as well as external partners such as RSL's and other private sector providers.

### **Work environment**

The Post holder will work from home or from Council buildings in line with Council policies.

However, the nature of the role might require you to undertake applicants' health and disability assessments in their homes located within and outside Camden borough.

The post holder may occasionally be required to work at weekends, early mornings or in the evenings. Home working is available in agreement with your manager.

The post-holder will work in an "agile" way in line with the Council's move to a flexible and paperless work environment, prioritising their own work within the empowered and enabled team culture recognising and utilising the expertise of others where appropriate.

Post holders are expected to work on their own where it is safe to do so and have regard to the Council's lone working policies working with colleagues and partner agencies where appropriate.

### **People management responsibilities**

The post holder will report to the Housing Allocations and Voids Service Manager.

This role has no direct line management responsibilities.

### **Over to you**

We're ready to welcome your ideas, your views, and your rebellious spirit. Help us redefine our corporate services, and we'll redefine what a career can be. If that sounds good to you, we'd love to talk.

### **Is this role politically restricted?**

Some posts at Camden are politically restricted, which means individuals holding these posts cannot have an active political role. For a list of all politically restricted roles at Camden [click here](#).

### **Diversity and inclusion**

We want Camden Council to be a great place to work and to ensure that our communities are represented across our workforce. A vital part of this is ensuring we are a truly inclusive organisation that encourages diversity in all respects, including diversity of thinking. We particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and

those of Other Ethnicities, LGBT+, disabled and neurodiverse communities to make a real difference to our residents so that equalities and justice remains at the heart of everything we do. Click Diversity and Inclusion for more information on our commitment.

### **Agile working**

At Camden we view work as an activity, not a place. We focus on performance, not presenteeism. We create trusting relationships; we embrace innovation rather than bureaucracy and we value people. Collaboration is the Camden way, silo working isn't. And in line with our relational approach, face-to-face conversations with residents often result in a better customer experience, so staff who work directly with citizens are likely to be in more than they're not.

At Camden we are proud to be one of Hire Me My Way's inaugural campaign supporters. Hire Me My Way is a national campaign led by Timewise, designed to increase the volume of good quality jobs that can be worked flexibly in the UK

([www.HireMeMyWay.org.uk](http://www.HireMeMyWay.org.uk)). Hire Me My Way aims to triple the number of available good quality flexible jobs to 1 million by 2020.

### **Asking for adjustments**

**Camden is committed to making our recruitment practices barrier-free and as accessible as possible for everyone. This includes making adjustments or changes for disabled people, neurodiverse people or people with long-term health conditions. If you would**

**like us to do anything differently during the application, interview or assessment process, including providing information in an alternative format, please contact us on 020 7974 665**