

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your application to counsel at Women & Health. The following information may be useful to you in deciding whether this is the kind of place where you would like to work.

The aims of Women & Health are to provide a range of low-cost body therapies and talking therapies for local women who might not otherwise have access to affordable health care options. We provide a variety of other services including Well Woman Clinic, yoga and groups. In particular, we offer low-cost, person-centred and psychodynamic counselling/psychotherapy for up to two years, for which there is enormous demand.

Women & Health invites qualified and student counsellors and psychotherapists to practice **voluntarily** in the Centre. Student Counsellors should usually be in the last phase of their training and **have experience of working one-to-one with clients other than fellow students**, although professional, voluntary and life experience will be taken into consideration. This is necessary as we offer long term counselling and many of the clients have had prior experience of short term work and recognise the need for deeper work.

Practitioners are expected to be in established counselling/therapy of their own and to remain in it whilst practising at the Centre or up to accreditation/registration. They are expected to be in supervision whilst practising and the Centre can help with providing supervision if necessary. Supervisors would be expected to be aware of the aims and objectives of Women & Health and could be asked to contribute toward the practitioners annual review. Counsellors/therapists need to be able to offer from **3 to 8** sessions weekly for a minimum of **two years**.

The centre offers training workshops free to practitioners and there are regular meetings at which counsellors can keep in touch with each other. The co-ordination of the service is undertaken by a Clinical Manager and Senior Psychotherapist. The Centre is a vibrant and supportive place to work.

Lesbians, black women and women from minority ethnic communities are currently under-represented in our services and would be particularly welcome.

Please read the person specification and fill in the enclosed application form if you are still interested! The Co-ordinator will contact you as soon as possible to let you know if you have been selected for interview or not.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Berger/Brenda Prince
Counselling Co-ordinators

APPLICATION FORM

Name Tel:

Address Email
..... DOB

- 1. Why do you want to work at Women + Health ?**

- 2. Are you currently involved with the Centre in any other capacity?**

- 3. Please detail all counselling/therapy training you have completed or are undertaking specifying colleges, training schools etc**

- 4. How much experience do you have of counselling on a one to one basis? How many hours supervised practice?**

- 5. Do you have experience in any specific areas eg DV, sexual abuse, bereavement?**

- 6. How much personal therapy have you had? Are you in therapy now + since when?**

- 7. Please detail your experience of supervision and your current arrangements?**

**8. Are you a member of BACP, UKCP or any other professional body?(please specify)
If not, under which Code of Ethics do you practise?**

9. Do you have experience of working in an all women environment?

10. Do you have, or have you had in the last 5 years, any physical or mental condition which could affect your work as a counsellor? If yes, please specify and describe how it might impact on your work.

11. Have you been convicted of a criminal offence? If yes, please state when and for what.

12. Please tell us anything about yourself which you feel is relevant to your application, mentioning your strengths and weaknesses and any personal, cultural, religious or other factors, such as life experiences.

Please provide the names, addresses/email addresses of 2 referees, at least 1 of whom knows your work as a counsellor, stating the relationship.

Ref 1

Ref 2

TARGET GROUPS

W+H aims to build a team of counsellors which reflects the makeup of the local community so we might at any time particularly welcome women from specific groups.

Please tick if you identify yourself as being from any of the following groups.

Lesbian Woman with disabilities Older woman

Black woman / woman from minority ethnic communities

Please email to sue@women-and-health.org or snailmail to 4 Carol Street, London NW1 0HU

WOMEN + HEALTH

Person specification for volunteer counsellor/therapist post

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- 1. The applicant must be in the 2nd year of a BACP accredited diploma course or UKCP accredited training.**
- 2. The applicant must be in established personal counselling or psychotherapy and remain in it at least until registered or accredited.**
- 3. The applicant must have some experience of one-to-one working in structured sessions with clients *other than* fellow students. This could be as a counsellor or in a related field eg. social work, key working, mental health.**
- 4. The applicant must be able to work with a minimum of 3 clients each week for a minimum of 2 years.**
- 5. The applicant must be comfortable working with women from different cultural and religious backgrounds and with women of different sexual orientation, class and disability level.**
- 6. The applicant must be able to come to some counsellors meetings and training workshops of which there are approximately one each per term on Saturdays.**

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- 1. The applicant may have considerable experience of providing counselling or psychotherapy.**
- 2. The applicant might be able to offer counselling in other languages as well as English, particularly minority community languages.**
- 3. The applicant may have experience of working with clients who have had violent relationships, sexual abuse in childhood or have addictive behaviours as these issues crop up frequently in our client group.**
- 4. Knowledge of complementary and alternative therapies**