

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	Specialist Dietitian
<b>GRADE:</b>	AFC Band 6 equivalent
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Health Centre
<b>REPORTING TO:</b>	Lead Dietitian
<b>ACCOUNTABLE TO:</b>	Head of Healthcare and Nursing

### **Job purpose:**

To take responsibility for delivering high-quality dietetic support to students, providing accurate, evidence-informed nutritional plans that meet their assessed needs and support their families.

To work in close collaboration with the Lead Dietitian to promote evidence-based practice, utilise clinical audit to demonstrate the quality of care, and ensure that learning from incidents, errors, and complaints informs continuous service improvement.

To maintain robust systems for accurate record-keeping of training, assessments, and competency checks, ensuring that all policies, procedures, and practices align with current best practice and relevant guidance, including NICE standards.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Treloar School and College are independent providers of specialist education, care and therapy to students with highly complex physical, neurological and learning difficulties. Within this complex organisation the post holder will work to ensure appropriate dietetic support for students and the staff supporting them.

#### **Clinical and Professional**

- Hold responsibility for a defined clinical caseload, providing specialist dietetic advice to students, parents, multidisciplinary teams, and other healthcare professionals.
- Work autonomously within a team environment, offering daily dietetic support and guidance to a broad range of staff.
- Calculate students' nutritional requirements, taking into account medical conditions, current nutritional status, biochemistry, anthropometrics, and dietary history.
- Provide support where mental or physical health impacts nutritional status (e.g., advising on increased caloric and protein intake pre-operatively).
- Prescribe appropriate dietetic treatment, establish nutritional goals, and formulate effective treatment plans.
- Provide standardised Tube Feeding Regimens (TFRs) for staff to implement; monitor feed tolerance and collaborate with education and therapy teams to schedule feeds that support access to learning and participation.
- Review and adjust dietetic care plans in line with monitored outcomes to facilitate goal achievement.
- Liaise with staff, nurses, and feed companies to maintain appropriate supplies of specialist feeds and equipment.
- Ensure the timely and safe sharing of relevant student information with key professionals and agencies, adhering to established protocols.

- Collaborate with the medicines management team to ensure feeds and dietary supplements are clinically appropriate and accurately entered into the electronic medicines system for administration.
- Develop special menus that address medical dietary requirements (e.g., allergies, intolerances), support nutritional goals (e.g., weight gain/maintenance), and respect student preferences—empowering choice wherever possible.
- Create recipes for blended diets where required by student needs.
- Order and manage specific nutritional equipment or plastics needed to support safe feeding practices.
- Respond to staff queries and troubleshoot practical concerns (e.g., fluid intake in hot weather, changes to regimens for external trips).
- Liaise with external dietitians and healthcare professionals to ensure continuity of care.
- Deliver staff training (for example, feeding students with swallowing difficulties, blended diets).

## **Communication**

- Communicate professionally and proactively, fostering strong relationships with internal and external teams.
- Establish and maintain effective communication about complex or sensitive matters, demonstrating empathy and sensitivity.
- Develop supportive rapport with students, parents, and carers to identify shared goals and overcome barriers to achieving nutritional outcomes.
- Adapt communication methods to promote understanding among students with a range of communication needs.
- Deliver presentations to internal and external professionals, as appropriate.
- Work closely with the catering department regarding students' nutritional needs, including therapeutic diets, texture-modified diets, blended diets (via gastrostomy), and appropriate snacks.
- Maintain accurate and timely record-keeping in line with BDA and local guidelines.
- Represent dietetic needs at open days, student assessments, and multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings to ensure well-coordinated care.
- Report incidents and errors according to policy, adopting a proactive approach to learning and improvement.

## **Service Development**

- Contribute to the ongoing review of clinical policies and practices, promoting evidence-based care within the dietetic team.
- Integrate national guidance and emerging topics to ensure that practice remains up to date.
- Engage in external networking to enhance clinical knowledge and service delivery.
- Develop personal and professional practice through reflection, CPD, and peer engagement.

## **Working relationships**

- Operate with autonomy while contributing actively as a team member.
- Foster positive working relationships and effective communication across teams. Key partnerships include immediate colleagues, Lead Dietitian, Catering team, Speech and Language Therapy, Health Centre team, Heads of School and College, and Residential Managers.

- Contribute to strategic planning and service improvement through team meetings and collaborative initiatives.
- Supervise and support student dietitian placements, providing structured learning experiences.

### **Other duties**

- Maintain HCPC registration through ongoing revalidation, completion of mandatory training, and CPD activities.
- Support the Trust's commitment to safeguarding and promoting student welfare.
- Adhere to Trust policies related to safeguarding, health and safety, equality and diversity, confidentiality, and data protection - raising concerns as appropriate.
- Undertake other reasonable duties or general tasks as required, including flexible hours when needed and responsibilities delegated by your manager.
- Understand that this job description provides a general guideline and will be reviewed periodically in response to evolving professional and organisational needs.

***This job description will be revised from time to time to take account of changing organisational need***

**Treloar Trust  
April 2026**

**PERSON SPECIFICATION – Specialist Dietitian**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietitian (registered with HCPC)</li> <li>• BDA Paediatric Group Course Module 1 and/or Module 2 or willingness to work towards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong evidence of CPD</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills &amp; Knowledge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competent and confident practitioner with well-developed clinical dietetic skills</li> <li>• Strong interpersonal and communication abilities, able to articulate the role of diet in nutrition support across therapeutic, training, and strategic contexts</li> <li>• Proficient in accurate anthropometric assessment</li> <li>• Advanced clinical reasoning and decision-making skills</li> <li>• Competent in IT systems for data management, record-keeping, and office administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of working with non-verbal patients and communication aids.</li> <li>• Some training, skills or experience in counselling approaches and/or behaviour change techniques</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience as a dietitian within clinical and/or hospital-based NHS settings</li> <li>• Experienced in managing a demanding, varied workload</li> <li>• Proven track record in patient education and training of healthcare professionals, promoting evidence-based nutritional practices</li> <li>• Skilled in collaborative, multidisciplinary team working to optimise patient outcomes in either acute or community care.</li> <li>• Experienced in maintaining high standards of dietetic practice and identifying areas of weakness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postgraduate-level experience in home enteral nutrition, paediatrics, neuro-disability, or similar, with a strong foundation in delivering complex nutritional care plans</li> <li>• Experience of clinical audits, with a focus on service improvement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Personal Qualities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of students</li> <li>• A positive, and reflective practitioner.</li> <li>• Professional role model, demonstrating high standards of conduct and practice</li> <li>• Self-motivated, well-organised, and proactive</li> <li>• Strong team player, with a collaborative and supportive working style</li> <li>• Willing and able to offer some flexibility with working hours when required.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>TRELOAR TRUST IS COMMITTED</u></b>  <b><u>TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS</u></b>  <b>All successful candidates will be subject to a DBS Check along with other relevant employment checks</b></p>	

**BOTH THE JOB DESCRIPTION AND THE PERSON SPECIFICATION ARE SUBJECT TO THE TRUST'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY**

If you have not heard from us within three weeks of submitting your application please assume you have not been short-listed.