
Guidance note for arts therapy profiles

Art, music, drama and dance movement

Contact: Carol English, Professional Officer, Health Sector, Unite the Union, Unite House, 128 Theobald's Road, Holborn, London WC1X 8TN.

Telephone: 020 3371 2013

At present the Department of Health has agreed four national profiles for arts therapy/psychotherapy. Further detailed information on job descriptions and application of the profiles can be obtained in the Joint Unite Arts Therapy Associations Profile Guidance.

Arts Therapist Entry Level Band 6 £22,328 to £30,247

This profile should not be applied to any autonomous practitioner. The postholder will be qualified to master's level equivalent and will deliver basic level arts therapy/psychotherapy on an individual or group basis. They will not have any input to policy change and service development and will not supervise other staff. The postholder will have no responsibility for providing clinical supervision and will not undertake any research or complex audits.

Arts Therapist Band 7 £26,948 to £35,527

This profile will apply to an Arts Therapist qualified to master's level equivalent. At this level the postholder will not manage other therapists but will provide clinical supervision for trainees/therapists and/or nursing staff. The postholder may undertake research and will contribute to policy change and service development within their own area. The postholder will work autonomously and has the freedom to act within established parameters. This band should be the entry level for the majority of qualified arts therapists.

Arts Therapist Principal Band 8a-b £34,372 to £49,496

This profile will apply to an experienced Arts Therapist qualified to master's level equivalent. At this level the profile can apply to a range of therapists including lone workers. This profile can apply to either a therapist in a specialist field providing specialised advice or to a team leader responsible for the day to day management of a group of therapists or to a therapist whose major job purpose is undertaking research and development beyond their own area.

Head of Arts Therapies Band 8c-d £48,176 to £71,494

This profile will apply to an experienced Arts Therapist who is qualified to master's level equivalent and has acquired further specialist, or management and HR knowledge. The postholder will plan and organise an arts therapy service and will implement service change and policy development. They will be the line manager for arts therapy staff responsible for appraisals, disciplinary and grievance, recruitment and selection decisions and career development. They will hold the budget for the arts therapy service.