

## **PAT (Pets as Therapy) Dog Handler Volunteer role description**

Under the guidance of the Volunteer Services and in partnership with play specialists and the Activity Centre, the PAT Dog volunteer will provide an opportunity for patients and families to meet a registered PAT dog and to engage in one to one contact in a safe environment.

### **Time commitment:**

To be negotiated with Volunteer Services and Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) staff

### **Key tasks:**

- To be guided by the play specialist and Activity Centre Manager on appropriate play activities for patients and their siblings
- Helping to maintain a clean safe environment in which children can play
- Setting up and tidying/cleaning after the session
- Monitor playroom environment and all visitors ensuring appropriate access to the service
- Supervises, instructs, encourages and interacts with patients/siblings as they participate
- Alerts play workers/specialists to any issues of concern
- Welcomes any patients/visitors
- Provide bedside play activities and support where necessary

### **Desired skills and experience:**

- PAT Dog Charity registered
- Pet to be Insured and up to date with all required vaccinations, etc
- Experience of working with young people/children
- Listening skills
- Sensitive and tactful nature
- Emotionally mature
- Understanding of loss and bereavement issues
- Compassion
- Reliable and trustworthy
- Understanding of (ability to learn) personal/professional boundaries

### **We will provide:**

- Supervision and support from a dedicated member of staff at GOSH
- Induction to GOSH
- Specific training for the role
- Local induction to the ward or department
- On-going up-dates and information
- Reimbursement of travel expenses (maximum of zone 6 return journey)
- A meal allowance of £2.50
- References can be provided after six months of volunteering