**Statement in support of your application**

Please use this section to state your **reasons for applying for this post.**Outline the **skills & experience** you have gained, either in paid work, unpaid /voluntary work, work at home, through your studies, through your leisure activities, which you think are **relevant** to the job for which you are applying, and which you believe makes you suitable for the post. Be sure to include relevant **achievements** and address every aspect of the Person Specification. If you require more space please attach extra pages.

**Job description:**

Research Fellow

**UCL**- Division of Psychology and Language Science London

Overview of the project

Adolescence is a period of heightened vulnerability to developing mental health problems. Rates of mental health disorder in this age group have increased in the last decade. It is striking how few resources have been invested in advancing our understanding of how to effectively prevent mental health problems developing before they become entrenched, particularly in adolescents who are at high risk. Increasingly, researchers and clinicians are recognising that a new approach is needed, focusing on transdiagnostic mechanisms implicated in vulnerability to mental health problems.

In this new study, we will develop a novel preventative intervention, delivered in the school setting, which integrates targeted training in emotional processing with group interpersonal therapy (IPT) that addresses young people’s social relationships. Given the rapid rise in mental health difficulties that occurs in early to mid-adolescence, the study focuses on ages 13-14 years (school years 8 and 9), which represent an ideal phase for effective prevention. This new hybrid intervention will be created through an interdisciplinary partnership between young people, teachers, psychologists, sociologists, parents, clinicians, statisticians, digital health experts and performing artists.

Young people will be actively involved in shaping the new programme and agents in co-facilitating its delivery. Performing artists that specialise in working with young people will play a key role in engaging young people in the co-development process and bringing the intervention to life. The study will involve close partnership with school leaders, teachers and school mental health specialists to ensure that the programme is integrated appropriately with existing mental health provision and is sustainable in the long-term.

The project is being led by Professors Essi Viding and Pasco Fearon. The postdoctoral Research Fellow will take a lead on collating and testing the parts of the study battery that focus on social relationships. This will include working with the data manager to implement data collection systems, checking and piloting measurements in the field (including work with young people to optimise the study protocols), analysing the data and writing it up for publication. A further key task will be working with the study PIs, co-ordinator and data manager in curating the data for public use at the end of the study.  The post is for 4 years in the first instance.

We are looking for an individual with excellent skills in multivariate statistics and scientific writing. The ideal candidate will also have experience in conducting research with young people and have experience in longitudinal mental health/social relationships research and/or intervention studies. Experience in social network analyses would be an advantage but is not an absolute requirement for the job. The applicant also needs to possess good interpersonal skills for communicating with the wider project team.