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| Title of Post | Project Worker, Children's Bereavement Service. |
| Location | Lower Buckingham Street, Dublin 1 with occasional home working and regional travel. |
| Employment Type | Part-time (22.5 hours/3 days per week) and Permanent |
| Salary | €20,805 – €32,159 (Pro-rated for 22.5 hours) |
| Contact Person | Liz McFeely Tel: 01- 8134101 Email: liz.mcfeely@barnardos.ie |
| Closing Date | 15/8/25 at 5pm |
| Interviews | Tuesday 26 th , August, 2025 |

Information Note

Name of the Project: Barnardos Children's Bereavement Service

Address/Location: Dublin: 23/24 Lower Buckingham Street, Dublin 1

Contact Details: Dublin: 01-8134100

What does our service do?

The Barnardos Children's Bereavement Service is a bereavement service for children/young people and their families who are grieving due to the death of a loved one.

We work with all ages of young people, age 0-18.

We offer support no matter who has died – referrals are most often received following the death of a parent/carer, sibling, or a classmate.

We offer support for any cause of death – referrals are most often received following sudden, unexpected or violent death.

We work systemically with the whole family, and also with professionals in their communities, to help them to support children by reducing traumatic stress and processing grief.

A variety of methodologies are utilized drawing on influences from Trauma-sensitive practice, Arts therapies, Sensory Attachment Integration, and Play-based therapies, as well as current models of family and parenting support.

The BCBS offers three circles of support:

- 1) Therapeutic Support for bereaved children and families
- 2) Community Resourcing (training and consultancy) with and for professionals
- 3) A National Helpline, open to any adult with concerns about a bereaved child.

What will the Project Worker do?

Project Workers with the Barnardos Children's Bereavement Service operate across each of these three circles of support:

- 1) *Therapeutic Support*: Project Workers engage directly with children, families and communities who have been bereaved, most often traumatically, and are struggling to cope with the aftermath of traumatic loss. Project Workers are involved with the assessment of need of bereaved children and families and the implementation of therapeutic interventions for these families with a view to achieving identified outcomes. This work primarily happens in person but at times, online.
- 2) *Community Resourcing*: Project Workers liaise closely with external agencies such as Social Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Schools who may also be involved with the child. Projects Workers are also involved the in the delivery of consultation, training and critical incident support to local services. This work happens both in person and online.
- 3) *National Helpline*: Project Workers also work as part of a Helpline Team and provide support, information, advice and resources to adults (parents/family members or professionals) who make contact with our Helpline by phone or email.

Project Workers need to be able to work compassionately in both a trauma and grief informed way with bereaved children and families, and the professionals who support them. They also need to be able to work in an emotionally sustainable way – with awareness of the impact of traumatic stress on themselves as professionals, and on their colleagues, and a commitment to working through reflective practice as a team.

Where we work:

Project Workers are based across two centres – one in Dublin city and one in Cork city.

The Project Co-ordinator and bereavement staff are based in Buckingham Street, Dublin 1.

The Dublin team is managed remotely by the Project Leader.

The Project Leader and bereavement staff are based in Mahon, Cork City.

Job Description

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| Post: | Project Worker |
| Location: | Bereavement Service, Dublin 1 |
| Responsible to: | Project Leader, Barnardos National Bereavement Service |
| Works with: | Project Workers, Project Leader, Project Co-ordinator, Barnardos staff, Volunteers, External Agencies, Children & Families |

Job purpose

To develop and implement services that respond to the needs of children and families affected by the death of a close family member.

Core Job Requirements

- To assess the needs of the children and the families engaging with the project.
- To plan, implement and review services for children/young people/carers/families affected by bereavement based on an assessment of their individual needs. Such services will include family work and individual work with children, and at times may also include group work.
- To key work individual children/young people/carers/families in order to meet their needs and to advocate on their behalf.
- To be vigilant for signs of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and any concerns regarding the welfare of children. To record concerns promptly and accurately. To consult with the Designated Person and take appropriate action in accordance with Barnardos Child Protection Policy.
- To liaise effectively with families and other statutory, community and voluntary bodies and to attend and contribute to planning meetings/reviews and case conferences as required.
- To provide information, training and consultancy services to carers/professional groups in aspects of childhood bereavement.
- To provide support and training to Barnardos staff and volunteers.
- To work in partnership with other Barnardos services to best meet the needs of children and families by collaborating resources with planned interventions targeting groups/families of shared need.
- To keep regular records in relation to all aspects of work and prepare reports as required.
- To gather information statistics and prepare reports as required, including administration of databases as appropriate to the role.
- To identify and document to the line manager any unmet needs of children/young people/carers/families within the service and to participate in the advocacy work of the agency.

Requirements of all Barnardos staff

- Commitment to the purpose of Barnardos and to work within the values, policies and procedures of the organisation and in the context of current legislation and regulations.

- To participate in regular group/ individual line management and clinical supervision with your line manager.
- To actively participate in team and staff meetings and service reviews/ evaluations and to contribute to the development of policy and practice with your area of work and within Barnardos as a whole.
- To report any area of concern to your line manager in a timely manner.
- To show reasonable flexibility in relation to hours of attendance to meet the needs of the work. Work during unsocial hours may be required.
- Have a flexible approach to the work in response to organisational change, development and review of best practice.
- Participate in and engage with a performance management programme.
- Identify training needs with your line manager and participate in training opportunities appropriate to the role.
- To be vigilant to any Health, Safety and Welfare risks in the workplace and bring any concerns to the attention of your line manager or local Health & Safety Officer.
- To be vigilant to any concerns regarding the protection and welfare of children and to bring them to the attention of the Barnardos Designated Person in a timely manner, in keeping with the Barnardos Child Protection policies.
- To participate in the efficient flow of information within the organisation by sharing and seeking information as appropriate.
- To undertake other duties, as may be requested by the line manager from time to time.
- To undertake your work in a manner that is friendly, flexible and informal.

Note: This Job Description will be reviewed and updated in line with the needs of the work.

Project Worker Person Specification

Personal Attributes

- Commitment to the delivery of quality services to children, young people, families and carers.

- Ability to participate in team work, working in collaboration with others and to work co-operatively with other agencies.
- Ability to act on own initiative and consult where appropriate.
- Ability to work under pressure, make decisions in consultation with the line manager when appropriate
- To be committed to adhering to best practice in the work and be innovative and open to change.
- Flexibility and adaptability are essential for this post.
- Ability to form objective relationships with children, young people, families/carers, colleagues and other agencies.

Experience

- A minimum of 2 years' post qualification experience of working with vulnerable children and families is required.
- Experience of working in a therapeutic way with children and families affected by trauma and grief.
- Experience of working in partnership with families and carers.
- Experience of planning, implementing and reviewing programmes with children and/or families.

Qualification

A recognised third level practice qualification¹ (minimum Level 7 on the QQI) in one of the following is essential:

- Education
- Social Care
- Social Work
- Youth Work
- Psychology
- Psychotherapy/Counselling
- Psychiatric Nursing

Desirable Experience

A relevant accredited therapeutic qualification such as Counselling, Psychotherapy, Family therapy, Art therapy, Bereavement Studies in addition to above is desirable.

Full clean driving licence and access to the use of a suitably insured car desirable.

The post-holder will be initially assigned to work in the Bereavement Service, Buckingham Street, Dublin 1 but may be required to work in other services within the Dublin area in line with organisational needs.

¹ Course content should include relevant student placements