

Title of Post	Project Worker – Children’s Bereavement Service.
Location	8/9 Orchard View, Ring Mahon Road, Mahon, Cork City with occasional home working and regional travel.
Employment Type	Part-Time (22.5 hours / 3 days per week) & 6 month Fixed Term Contract
Salary	€21,647 - €33,461
Contact Person	Liz McFeely on 018134101 / liz.mcfeely@barnardos.ie
Closing Date	12pm on Friday 10 October 2025
Interview Date	TBC

Information Note

Name of the Project: Barnardos Children's Bereavement Service

Address/Location: Cork: 8/9 Orchard View, Ring Mahon Road, Mahon

Contact Details: Cork: 021 435 7679

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 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.

Project Worker

Job Description

Post:	Project Worker
Location:	Bereavement Service, Mahon, Cork City
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.

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.

Desirable Experience

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

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

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, Mahon, Cork City but may be required to work in other services within the Cork area in line with organisational needs.

Barnardos is an equal opportunity employer.

We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all.

¹ Course content should include relevant student placements