

Title of Post	Project Worker
Location	Ballyogan Family Support Project
Employment Type	Permanent & Full Time (37 hours)
Salary	€37,499 - €57,962
Contact Person	Helen Carroll, Helen.Carroll@barnardos.ie
Closing Date	Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> January, 2026
Interview Date	TBC

**Location:** Family Support, Ballyogan, Samuel Beckett Campus, Ballyogan Road, Dublin 18.

This post is part of Barnardos wider Family Support Services being offered across the county. While the worker is located in Ballyogan, the work takes place in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown catchment area.

The work will involve working as part of the family support team to respond to children and families referred to the service across the county. It has a focus on working collaboratively with other service providers.

#### **What does our Ballyogan Project do?**

These Family Support project were set up in response to Barnardos' observation of the unmet needs of children living with parents who were misusing drugs in the Dublin South area. Ballyogan project operates as a Family Support Service with a specific focus on parental drug and alcohol misuse. The core services offered include safety planning, individual work with parents, individual work with children, parent-child work, practical family support, interagency work, crisis intervention and targeted groups. These project provides intensive, targeted, evidence- based child and family support programmes for children aged 0-18 years and their parents or carers. The projects each work with up to 40 families from this target group at any one time.

#### **How do we help children and families impacted by parental substance misuse?**

Barnardos projects in partnership with the task force aim to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of children affected by parental drug or alcohol misuse. We aim to break the cycle of intergenerational addiction by improving children's emotional wellbeing; enhancing children's capacity for learning and development; promoting resilience in children; building safety in the home and increasing children's safety networks. At the heart of this approach is providing children and families with a number of protective factors, which may buffer some of the negative impacts associated with parental addiction.

These protective factors include:

- improving parenting skills: supporting the parent to understand the impact of their addiction on their child, increasing their parenting capacity and their ability to understand their child's needs
- improving the child/parent relationship: including supporting co-regulation between child and parent
- building safety in the home and increasing children's safety network: increasing safety around the areas of risk with the development of safety plans and expanding the child's safety network to include supportive safe adults in tune with the child's needs

- increasing the parent's support network: expanding the people available in the parents support network to help them in challenging times
- supporting parents to have stability in their drugs/alcohol misuse
- supporting child and parent mental health and wellbeing: promoting health coping strategies, self-regulation and co-regulation.

Through the provision of these protective factors, it is hoped children will develop greater resilience in coping with adversity, which may help in breaking the intergenerational cycle of substance misuse.

In addition to addiction issues, many of the families that our service comes into contact with present with multiple challenges including, but not limited to, low income; lack of access to education; mental health difficulties; domestic violence; housing difficulties; anti-social behaviour and engagement with the criminal justice system. These multiple adversities make it difficult for families to function and meet their children's needs.

The level of risk involved in many of the families requires a tight Active Case Management process and frequent submission of Child Protection and Welfare Report Form to the Child and Family Agency as well as playing a key role in effective interagency working.

#### **Where do our referrals come from?**

Referrals for the project come from self-referrals from parents themselves, TUSLA (both Social Work teams and Partnership, Prevention and Family Support teams), adult addiction services (both community and statutory), schools, Public Health Nurses and Hospitals. All families referred to the service are either level 3 or level 4 on the Hardiker scale.

#### **What key interventions do we offer?**

- Assessment of the needs of the child and family
- Partnership with Parents (in home parenting support program)
- Practical Support
- Individual work with parents
- Crisis Management
- Interagency work
- Parents' Groups
- Individual work with children (This is Me)
- Friendship Group
- Strengthening Families (delivered in partnership with other agencies) offered as required
- Seasons for Growth
- Just Right State Program
- Non Violent Resistance (NVR) Program

#### **What do you need to know?**

Working with this high level of need can be challenging and requires project workers to engage in regular support and supervision (both formal and informal), team reflections and wider organizational supports that are available.

The suitable candidate must have an understanding of addiction through a trauma informed lens and how parental addiction can impact the individual, their children and overall family functioning.

## **Project Worker**

### **Job Description**

**Post:** Project Worker

**Location:** Ballyogan Family intensive support service

**Responsible to:** Project Leader

**Works with:** Internal and external stakeholders including Barnardos staff, Southside partnership/Tusla/Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Community services, volunteers, CE Workers and partner agencies, service users.

### **Job purpose**

To work intensively on a one to one/group work in order to respond to the needs of children and families referred to the service working in partnership with families and other organisational, community and voluntary bodies.

### **Core Job Requirements**

- Assess the needs of the children and the families engaging with the project.
- Plan, implement and review programmes for children/young people/carers/families based on an assessment of their individual and group needs.
- 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.
- Work with children/young people/carers/families in a variety of ways, including group work, individual work and family work, centre-based and outreach work.
- To key work individual children/young people/carers/families in order to meet their needs and to advocate on their behalf.
- Liaise effectively with families and other statutory, community and voluntary bodies and to attend and contribute to reviews and case conferences as required.
- 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.
- Keep regular records in relation to all aspects of work and prepare reports as required.
- Gather information statistics and prepare reports as required, including administration of databases as appropriate to the role.
- 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 Specific to this Post**

- Offer practical help/guidance through themed workshops with parents to develop the skills to meet their children's needs on an ongoing basis, e.g.
- Budgeting, home management, hygiene, nutrition, play, behaviour management, etc.
- Intensive home-based individual work with parents
- Working closely with vulnerable children and families.

- Deliver group work to parents or children in the community.
- Ensure commitment to the delivery of a quality service to children and families.
- Ensure confidentiality and General Data Protection legislation is adhered to at all times in relation to information regarding children, families, staff and all other matters within the project.

**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 act on own initiative and consult where appropriate.
- Ability to work under pressure and make decisions in consultation with the line manager when appropriate.
- Be committed to adhering to best practice, innovation and changes to practice
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Ability to form objective relationships with children, young people, families/carers, colleagues and other agencies.
- To work as part of a team, liaise and co-work with line manager, colleagues and external partners and agencies.
- Computer skills with proficiency in MS Office suite, Outlook, Word, Excel etc.
- Attention to detail and record keeping with a strong awareness of confidentiality and GDPR

#### **Experience**

A minimum of 2 years' experience, comprising:

- 1 year post-qualification experience, and
- 1 year prior qualification experience working with vulnerable children and families

#### **Qualifications**

A recognised third level practice qualification<sup>1</sup> (minimum Level 7 on the QQI) in one of the following:

- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Social Care
- Education
- Social Work
- Youth Work
- Or related discipline (Psychology, Counselling or Nursing, etc.).

**Note:** this list can be varied depending on the specific requests of the post.

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<sup>1</sup> Course content should include relevant student placements

*Applicants must be registered or eligible for registration with CORU as a Social Care Worker. This includes those currently in the process of registration under CORU's transitional arrangements (grandparenting route). Candidates who meet the eligibility criteria but have not yet completed registration are encouraged to apply. However, you will be required to provide proof of registration or evidence they have initiated the application process.*

**Full driving licence and access to the use of a suitably insured car essential.**

The post-holder is initially assigned to work at Ballyogan Family support service, but may be required in the future to work in other locations in the Dublin South area in line with organisational needs.

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