

Position	Project Worker - Lorien
Location	Lorien, Tallaght - Dublin 24
Employment Type	Part-Time (30 hours) and Permanent
Salary	€30,404 - €46,996 (Pro-rated salary for 30 hours)
Contact	recruitment@barnardos.ie / 01 453 0355
Closing Date	12pm Wednesday 17 th December 2025
Interview Date	TBC

Information Note

Name of the Project: Lorien Project
Address: 30 MacUlliam Crescent, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

What does our Project do?

The Lorien project was set up in 1997 in response to unmet needs of children living in the Tallaght area.

Lorien is a Family Support Service with specific focus on families who are experiencing difficulties with parental drug and alcohol misuse. The project is funded by Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (TDATF) and HSE Addiction Services.

The core services offered include for example: safety planning, individual work with parents, individual work with children, parent-child work, practical family support, interagency work, crisis intervention and targeted groups.

This project provides intensive, targeted, evidence-based and trauma-informed child and family support programmes for children aged 0-18 years and their parents or carers. The project works with up to 40 families from this target group at any one time.

How do we help children and families?

The Lorien project aims 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
- 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 regarding their drugs/alcohol misuse
- supporting child and parent mental health and wellbeing: promoting health coping strategies, self-regulation and co-regulation.

It is hoped through providing the protective factors that children will develop greater resilience in coping with adversity, to help with breaking the intergenerational cycle of substance misuse.

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
- Crisis Management
- Non Violent Resistance (NVR) Program
- Parents' Groups
- Individual work with children (This is Me)
- Friendship Group
- Strengthening Families (delivered in partnership with other agencies) as required
- Seasons for Growth
- Just Right State 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 how trauma can impact parenting, children and overall family functioning.

Project Worker

Job Description

Post:	Project Worker
Location:	Lorien Child and Family service, Tallaght
Responsible to:	Project Leader
Works with:	Barnardos Internal and external stakeholders including a range of external agencies

Job purpose

The Lorien project works with families with alcohol addiction as well as illicit drug addiction.

The suitable candidate will develop and implement programmes that 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 projects.
- Plan, implement and review programmes for children/young people/carers/families based on an assessment of their individual and group needs. This includes direct work through key working, group sessions, outreach, and centre-based activities, as well as advocacy at both individual and group level.
- 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.
- Work directly with children, young people, carers, and families through a range of approaches—including individual, group, family, centre-based, and outreach work—providing key working support where appropriate and advocating on their behalf to meet identified needs.
- 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.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of all aspects of work, including the collection of statistical data, preparation of reports, and administration of relevant databases, in line with service requirements
- 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

- The suitable candidate must have an understanding of how trauma can impact parenting, children and overall family functioning.
- Ensure that the service operates in an integrated way with other Barnardos services in the region

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.
- Be trauma informed in your approach to your work
- 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 total 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 qualification¹ (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.

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 is essential.

The post-holder is initially assigned to work in the Lorien Child and Family Service but may be required in the future to work in other locations in the Dublin 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