

Title of Post	Project Worker, Initial Assessment – Dublin South Central
Location	Christchurch Square, Dublin 8
Employment Type	Full Time (37 Hours) & Permanent Contract
Salary	€35,598 - €55,024
Contact Person	Lisa Crombie on 014530355 / lisa.crombie@barnardos.ie
Closing Date	26 th November, 2026
Interview Date	TBC

Information Note

Barnardos Initial Assessment and Family Support Service in Dublin South Central provide a combination of Initial Child Protection Assessment work and Family Support on behalf of our funders Tusla. Project Workers undertake Initial Family Assessments in partnership with Tusla using the Signs of Safety Approach. Signs of Safety is the national child centered approach adopted by Tusla for child protection and welfare practice. Barnardos' assessments are aligned with the Signs of Safety model, which is grounded in partnership and collaboration with children, families and their wider networks of support.

Project workers will also offer a variety of family support interventions to children and families including:

- **Partnership with Parents**, an intensive Barnardos home based one-to-one parenting support programme for parents with multiple and complex needs. The programme focuses on parenting skills and child/parent relationships in order make positive changes in the home.
- **Individual Work with Children (This is Me)**, which is a Barnardos evidence-based, tailored intervention working with children in conjunction with the important people in their lives. This work has a therapeutic focus and is based on the individual child's assessed needs. Its purpose is to build resilience and help children to understand and express their feelings and manage their own behaviour.
- **Practical Family Support for parents** who are in need of this level of pragmatic, practical and on the ground support. It could include support with household management, budgeting, nutrition, organizing, coordinating appointments and commitments, etc.
- **Inclusion of principles** of the evidenced based approach to **Sensory Attachment Intervention** and emotional regulation techniques in the work with vulnerable children and families.
- **Some group work programmes** such as seasons for growth, circle of security or parenting when separated amongst others.
- **Inter-agency and collaborative working**, with Tusla, including participation in the delivery of Meitheal, schools and community organisations.

Project Worker

Job Description

Post:	Project Worker
Location:	Barnardos Initial Assessment & Family Support Service, Dublin South Central – Christchurch Square, Dublin 8
Responsible to:	Project Leader
Works with:	Children, parents, families, Barnardos staff, TUSLA social work staff and other TUSLA personnel, other statutory, voluntary and community partners

Job purpose

The primary purpose of this post is to conduct Initial Assessments (IAs) on low – medium risk referrals received from Tusla social work department using the Signs of Safety approach to child protection and welfare concerns.

The post holder, will also implement programmes that respond to the needs of children and families referred to the service for family support work, working in partnership with families and other organisations, community, voluntary bodies and statutory bodies as appropriate.

Initial Assessment Work; to assess risk, determine the safety needs of the children and the protective capacity of the parents and wider family / social network, and in consultation with the Project Leader, make a recommendation to Tusla regarding the family.

Family Support Work; to work collaboratively with families, parents, children and other agencies to enhance parent's insight into and capacity to meet their children's social, emotional, physical, developmental and educational needs whilst supporting the development of children's emotional literacy, coping strategies, emotional regulation, development, relationships and overall wellbeing.

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

- To conduct initial assessments on behalf of Tusla and to provide intensive family support to vulnerable families in the Dublin South Central Area.
- To work with children/young people/carers/families in a variety of ways, including IA's, Family Support and group work, individual work and family work, centre based and outreach work.
- To undertake initial family assessments using the signs of safety framework on child welfare and protection referrals made to TUSLA social work department.
- Following Initial Assessment assessments, to provide short-term interventions to families where appropriate to the families' needs.
- To implement Signs of Safety framework in Initial Assessments and to attend regular Signs of Safety Group Supervision as required.
- To participate in interagency group consultation meetings on complex family referrals and assessments.
- To assess the safety and overall needs of the children and the families engaging with the project.
- To assess parental protective capacity to protect their children from identified risk or harm.
- To assess and support the development of parental insight into and capacity to meet their children's social, emotional, physical and developmental needs.
- To provide comprehensive assessment reports, complete TUSLA business processes and input all records electronically.
- To provide recommendations to Tusla regarding whether the case should remain open to Tusla, referred to an agency or closed.
- To attend and participate in Case Conferences, interagency meetings or Tusla meetings as required.
- To demonstrate high quality standards of practice, report writing, analysis and decision making across all cases; IA's and family support.
- To participate in any briefing and training relevant to the role e.g. Signs of Safety, and Barnardos specific training regarding interventions for families.
- To provide family support services (group and individual supports) to children in the age range of 0-18 years of age and their families.

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, 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.
- Experience of working in partnership with families and carers.
- Experience of assessing children's and families' needs.
- Experience of planning, implementing and reviewing programmes with children and/or families.
- Experience of interagency working.
- Experience of preparing comprehensive needs led reports on children and families

Desirable Knowledge

- Up to date with evidenced informed thinking with regard to interventions for children and families on an individual and group level.
- Use of Signs of Safety as a tool for screening and assessing risk.
- Experience of Meitheal processes.
- Maintaining electronic records.
- Experience of assessing and managing risk and safety needs for children and families.
- Experience working with highly vulnerable 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.).

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.

A 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 Dublin South Central service but may be required in the future to work in other project(s) in the Dublin area in line with organisational needs and funding allocations.

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