

Inishowen Development Partnership Family Support Worker (Temporary Sick Leave Cover – Full time)

Job Description

The Family Support Worker, as part of the Buncrana IDP team, reporting to the IDP Joint CEO, will be working with the IDP Team and be guided by the **Family Support Sub-Group of IDP/North & South Inishowen School Completion**.

As the Family Support Worker, you will be based between Carndonagh Community School and IDP Buncrana office (remote working arrangement for this post where appropriate). You will be working with families across the Inishowen area (North & South Inishowen School Completion catchments) and liaising with the schools and Tusla. Ideally, you should have knowledge of holistic service provision; have worked with parents /carers and children from a diverse range of backgrounds and will be familiar with support services in the local area. You should be able to demonstrate how you will engage with parents / carers to enable them to actively seek out services to nurture and support the children in education.

The position will necessitate the following:

- Track record of working with family support services, education settings and/or community groups/individuals
- Experience in monitoring, reporting and evaluation
- Good organisational and computer literacy skills
- Proven ability to work as part of a team and a capacity to work on own initiative
- Access to own transport and a clean driver's license is essential.

Ideally the successful candidate will have a minimum of three years experience of working in a local development/community development/family support setting and hold the relevant third level qualifications and training.

Families with additional needs impacting on school attendance are identified through the schools and referrals are then processed in collaboration with the Family Support Worker. Issues range from family history/culture of poor attendance, parenting capacity, to loss/bereavement issues and substance misuse difficulties within families. The Family Support Worker will support on average 12-20 families at any one time depending on intensity of contact.

This will be using the following underpinning principles:

- (i) Responding to referrals and establishing a protocol for assessing and agreeing objectives (to include referrer, family and worker)

- (ii) Establishing relationships with individual families based on transparency and trust.
- (iii) Engaging in agreed pieces of work with each family focusing on a positive parenting approach
- (iv) Agreeing a system of reviewing work undertaken with families (to include referrer, family and worker)
- (v) Engaging in relevant Meitheals in the area.

As part of this work the FS worker will engage as appropriate the following:

- Establish consent with each family for entering into close working relationships that may involve multiple home-based weekly visits (subject to Covid restrictions/guidelines)
- Role modelling, supporting, guiding, advising parents in relation to:
 - the challenges of parenting, including boundary setting concerned with age appropriate parent-child relationships,
 - establishing safe and secure environments for young children
 - other aspects of responsible care-giving
- Maintaining strong active links with the local School Completion Co-ordinator, Home School Community Liaison Coordinators and local Principals, in relation to the changing nature of family needs and processes
- Establishing and maintaining links with other resource agencies as a means of “onward referral” in relation to a range of personal/environmental factors such as: debt advice, domestic violence, mental health issues, substance dependency and other health related matters
- Establishing agreed protocols with and between Schools and Families that allow for a flow of information between the two
- Acting as an advocate on occasions with families who may have attracted a number of difficult “labels”
- Affirming parenting/care-giving achievements as a means of raising esteem and confidence, particularly in relation to appropriate child behaviour management
- Helping establish routines in the home in relation to; home care, family finance, diet, nutrition and health, appointment keeping, homework, etc
- It is anticipated that the service to be provided will be preventative in nature, in that it will help stabilise and support a family in order to prevent a child or children dropping out of school. The service may complement other supports

being provided to the family, and/or it may act as a 'step-down' support for a family which has had a crisis intervention from Social Work services.

The work will include the following outcomes:-

- Identification of work objectives with each family
- An improvement in the participation in school life of targeted young people
- An improvement in attendance
- A positive impact on families and family relationships to include identifying their strengths, improving their parenting skills, etc.
- A sense of stability is generated in a young person's life
- An improvement in self-esteem for families and emotional awareness for children
- An improvement in the school's relationship with families
- An increased chance for parents to overcome educational obstacles
- Engagement with Meitheal
- Facilitation of the development of new strategies to deal with change
- Empowerment of the family
- Reduction in withdrawn and non-engaged behaviour

He/she will be expected to:

- Undergo further appropriate training as needed or required.
- Contribute to community development when appropriate to do so.
- Feed into an appropriate evaluation mechanism that will focus and document on the progression of the participants
- Provide updates of their work by the submission of regular reports to the Steering Committee and to the relevant funder.
- Any other duties within the scope of the Job as designated by the Steering Group.

Due to the nature of this post, the individual will often be expected to work early mornings/evening/unsocial hours.



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