

Job Description

Section:	Youth Hub
Project:	Extension Services
Job Title:	Project Worker
Responsible to:	Team Leader
Location:	Back Lane, Dublin 8

Background:

The Youth Hub partners with vulnerable young people, to empower them to successfully move towards living independently. Through recognising the needs of individuals, we work to enable them create a living roadmap towards moving on from homelessness.

- Our youth development approach enlists young people as stakeholders in designing goals that are meaningful and aligned with the young people's own individual skills, dreams and competencies.
- We aim to provide this in environments which are safe to make mistakes as an inherent part of learning and practicing life skills. A key methodology is promoting awareness of choice.
- We work to expand young people's understanding of how their own choices serve or do not serve them in achieving their stated goals.
- Young people who are experiencing difficulties need many different services. The youth hub does this through mentoring, provision of high quality advice, information and guidance, identifying existing and new accommodation pathways and securing them for young people, and support in housing sustainability.

The Extension Service is a Drop-In Centre and is often the first point of contact that homeless young people make when accessing homeless services. We aim to provide a stable place for young people and provide them with basic essentials like food, and to be a 'place of change' while also engaging young people to create a pathway out of homelessness as quickly as possible.

Key Responsibilities

1. To work within the framework of the overall objectives of Focus Ireland
2. To work within the overall policies and procedures of Focus Ireland, inclusive of Health and Safety Policy
3. To provide a safe, welcoming environment for the young people who are out of home/or at risk, including the provision of basic physical care and support within the day service.

4. To establish trusting relationships especially with young people who are living on the streets or in temporary accommodation and who are unattached or out-of-home and engage them in work that enables them to move to a more stable lifestyle
5. To undertake assessments and support plans with young people as the lead agent using DRHE Care and Case Management system and protocols and other tools as appropriate e.g. STAR Outcome, to assist the young person to successfully progress toward independent living as appropriate.
6. To develop methods, structures and relationships to support the young person with their individual housing, welfare rights and entitlements and to access move on accommodation.
7. To build up and maintain a portfolio of accommodation providers in social housing, homeless sector and private rented accommodation.
8. To work as part of a multi-disciplinary team and service.
9. To provide Advice, Information and Guidance as prevention or in response to being out of home, and ensure appropriate referral to accommodation sustainment services.
10. To develop and maintain professional links with other agencies and services that may offer services to young people, and to assist in the coordination of services for the young people.
11. To develop, implement and deliver education programmes to young people attending local area youth work and community services and to other service providers working with the target population as a prevention tool.
12. To accompany and provide support to young people on appointments to other services i.e. doctors, counsellors, court etc and to provide support and supervision to young people whilst in custody and/or on outside activities
13. To be responsible for keeping up to date casework records, daily logs and written assessments, including inputting of information on the Focus Ireland database.
14. To work in close liaison and co-operation with other teams within Focus Ireland in particular the Supported Temporary Accommodation Project in Georges Hill, Caretakers Hostel, Youth Case Management and other statutory and voluntary agencies as appropriate.
15. To assist with practical tasks essential for the running of the project
16. To attend Team, Section, Agency and external agency's meetings and training as required
17. To meet regularly for supervision of work with your assigned supervisor
18. To work a flexible rota over 7 days

19. In conjunction with your Line Manager continuously develop the role to ensure that all tasks are being undertaken in an effective and appropriate manner to meet the strategic aims and objectives of the Focus Ireland.
20. In consultation, to undertake any other responsibilities and duties as may be reasonably assigned by the Project Leader, Manager or Director of Services.

Focus Ireland is an equal opportunities employer

Criteria: Project Worker, Extension Services

Essential criteria

- A Third Level qualification at degree level in the area of social care i.e. youth work, social studies, addiction, psychology etc.
- Proven extensive direct experience in the social care field working with disadvantaged young people at a project worker level or equivalent.
- A strong knowledge of issues affecting young people out-of-home and the impact on their physical, emotional and psychological development.
- Experience of dealing with high risk and challenging behaviour.
- Experience of working in a team.

Desirable criteria

- Relevant I.T Skills
- Knowledge of the National Quality Standards Framework for Youth Work, 2011
- Knowledge of the issues affecting the supply of accommodation
- Knowledge of services in the homeless sector
- Awareness of child protection issues and ways of responding appropriately to any concerns