

**Job Description**  
**Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme (YKABC)**  
**Oral Language Development Officer**  
**1x FT Basic Grade**  
**Maternity Leave Cover**

Employer: Northside Community Health Initiative (Cork) Ltd. -NICHE

Location: NICHE premises or nominated location from consortium service partners. The Oral Language Development Officer will be assigned a base location but will be expected to work across the YK geographical area.

Contract: From January 2017 to cover Maternity Leave.

Hours: 37 hours per week. May include some evenings.

Salary: HSE basic grade speech and language therapist scale.

Recruitment: Open recruitment adhering to NICHE recruitment policy. Secondment from a current position may be arranged if appropriate.

YKABC is a community prevention and early intervention programme, working across four areas of the Northside of Cork City, which commenced in January 2015. The programme aims to measurably improve the lives of all children (pre-birth to six) and their families. It does this by building on the work of our many partners across services and disciplines through a whole community approach to transform the skills of parents and the workforce of all those who come into the life of the child. The Young Knocknaheeny programme is underpinned by an innovative Infant Mental Health Framework and draws on best international evidence and practice.

Northside Community Health Initiative (Cork) Ltd (NICHE) is the lead agency for YKABC.

Young Knocknaheeny is funded by Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies under the Area Based Childhood Programme.

**Job Purpose:**

The Oral Language Development Officer will work as part of a team and with partner organisations across the community. He/she will implement an evidence based community language development strategy that builds the capacity of organisations, practitioners and parents. The aim of this strategy is to improve language development outcomes specifically, and to improve child development outcomes more generally, in the context of the overall Young Knocknaheeny ABC vision. The Oral Language Development Officer will be a member of the Interdisciplinary Team which adhere to the Michigan Home Visiting Framework under the supervision of the Infant Mental Health Specialist.

The community language development strategy builds on the NICHE pilot project (2009 to 2013) and incorporates the learning from other community based projects locally and nationally and fits within the overall YKABC implementation plan and long term sustainability objective.

**Job description**

To implement an early intervention and prevention oral language development plan, that is evidence-based and in partnership with services; that both supports a universal-whole community approach along with a small percentage of targeted intervention and complex case support, reflecting the Hardikker model of family support.

Focusing on the 0-6 age group, the Oral Language Development Officer will connect with all those involved in the life of the child, including families, practitioners and services. He/she will provide training, mentoring, intervention, and links to mainstream services that enhance and enrich language development for all children.

Close collaboration with health services, early education settings and primary schools in the YK area and across all four YK strands.

Contribute to the research and evaluation process to inform policy and practice.

**Reporting to:**

The Oral Language Development Basic Grade Officer will report to the Senior Grade Officer.

Attendance at HSE S&L Department team meetings will be required.

The Oral Language Development Officer will be expected to liaise closely with the YK management team and key services and practitioners.

**Person Specification:**

The person must hold the B.Sc Speech & Language Therapy or a validated equivalent.

The person must be eligible for registration with CORU.

The person must be a member of the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists.

The person must demonstrate their experience in a similar post at equivalent grade.

It would be desirable but not essential that the person has completed Hanen and Elklan training.

The person will take a professional approach to assessments, keeping records, data protection, health and safety, and adhere to all relevant policies and procedures.

The person will undertake and implement relevant training.

The person will have a deep commitment to early intervention and prevention work, to social change and antipoverty strategies.

The person will have experience of working with vulnerable families and disadvantaged communities and an understanding of educational disadvantage.

They will be open to learning, transferring knowledge, mentoring and support.

They will have knowledge of the Young Knocknaheeny geographical area, including the people, services, groups and organisations.

They will have strong interpersonal skills and experience working within a multi-disciplinary team and or differing intersectoral arrangements.

The Oral Language Development Officer will be self-motivated, trustworthy and reliable. He/she will show dedication and enthusiasm for the work and the values of practice. He/she must be flexible, open to change and the developing nature of the YK project. He/she must enjoy working with local families, practitioners and wider services.

**Application Process:**

Please complete the application form in full application form and submit for consideration.

The closing date for receipts of applications is Friday 6<sup>h</sup> January 2017 at 12 Midday (no late applications will be accepted). Applications can be received by email to the above address or by post to NICHE, HSE Building, Harbourview Road, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

Shortlisting will apply.

Interviews for prospective candidates for Staff Grade Oral Language Development Officer is likely to take place on the 19th January 2017.

This post is Garda Vetted.

NICHE is the lead agency for the Young Knocknaheeny ABC programme and therefore all contracts of employment will be with NICHE.

NICHE is an equal opportunities employer.

