



Job Description

Young Knocknaheeny ABC Programme

Oral Language Development Officer (Maternity Cover)

1x FT Basic Grade

(Requests for part-time working will be considered)

Employer: NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG is the lead agency for the Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme. Employees will have a contract of employment provided by NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG.

Location: NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG premises or nominated location. The Oral Language Development Officer will be assigned a base location but will be expected to work across the Young Knocknaheeny geographical area.

Contract: An initial fixed-term period to 30th June 2019. A probationary period will apply.

Hours of work: 37 hours per week (full-time). Requests for part-time working will be considered. Occasional out of hours working may be required for which a time off in lieu system is in operation.

Salary: Fixed point on the HSE Staff Grade Speech & Language Therapist salary scale.

Recruitment: Open recruitment adhering to the NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG recruitment policy. Secondment from a current position may be arranged if appropriate.

Programme Background:

Young Knocknaheeny (YK) is a community-based prevention and early intervention programme, working in the Northwest area of Cork City.

The Young Knocknaheeny Programme aims to get every child's life off to the best possible start by:

- Respectfully enhancing skills and early childhood development knowledge of all parents, practitioners and services
- Strengthening and enhancing all relationships and environments that are important to every child's early development
- Embedding systems and community change to support early childhood development and address childhood poverty



The Young Knocknaheeny Programme is underpinned by an innovative Infant Mental Health Framework and draws on best international evidence and practice.

Aligned to 'Better Outcomes Brighter Futures', YK is part of the national Area Based Childhood Programme (ABC) addressing areas of: Child Health & Development; Children's Learning; Parenting and Integrated Service Delivery.

The Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme is funded by TUSLA.

Job Purpose:

The Oral Language Development Officer will work as part of an interdisciplinary team and with partner organisations across the community.

He/she will work to 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 community language development strategy builds on the NICHE pilot project (2009 to 2013), incorporates the learning from other community based projects locally/nationally and fits within the overall YK implementation plan.

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.

She/he will provide training, mentoring, intervention and links to mainstream services that enhance and enrich language development for all children.

They will collaborate closely with health services, early education settings and primary schools in the YK area and across all four YK strands of work.

As a key member of the YK interdisciplinary team, the Oral Language Development Officer will contribute to the research and evaluation process to inform policy and practice.



Reporting to:

The Oral Language Development Officer Basic Grade 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, key services and practitioners.

Person Specification:

The successful candidate must hold a BSc Speech & Language Therapy from University College Cork OR validated equivalent.

The successful candidate must be eligible for registration with CORU.

They must also be a member of the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists.

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

It would be highly desirable that candidates have completed Hanen and Elklan training.

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

They will be open to undertaking and implementing relevant training.

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

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

The successful candidate 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.

The successful candidate will have strong interpersonal skills and experience working within a multi-disciplinary team and/or differing inter-sectoral 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.



She/he must be open to change and the developing nature of the YK project. Working as part of an interdisciplinary team, a flexible approach to undertaking other duties as assigned from time to time is key.

He/she must enjoy working with local families, practitioners and wider services.

The successful candidate must hold a full driving licence and have access to a vehicle for work purposes, or have access to a reliable form of transport which would enable them to fully meet the requirements of this role.

Application Process

Please download and complete the application form provided at www.activelink.ie

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 23rd November at 1pm (no late applications will be accepted). Applications can be received by email only to admin.ykabc@nicheonline.ie

Shortlisting will apply.

It is anticipated that interviews for prospective candidates for this post will take place during the week commencing Monday 3rd December 2018 with the successful candidate taking up the role in early January 2019.

This post is subject to Garda Vetting.

Canvassing will disqualify.

NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG is an equal opportunities employer.