



## Tender for Young Knocknaheeny ABC Research Support

### 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.

Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Programme (YKABC) wishes to invite suitably qualified individuals or organisations to tender for the contract of **Research Assistant** providing research support in the implementation of the evaluation study detailed below.

### Research Title

*Intervention study to support the development, piloting, and formative evaluation of an Infant Mental Health Training for Early Years Practitioners*



## Background

Young Knocknaheeny Area-Based Childhood programme (ABC) has a track record of delivering internationally recognised, high quality evidence-based Infant Mental Health (IMH) training to practitioners working directly with families. To date, such training has not been tailored to the needs of practitioners working with children in Early Years settings.

The current intervention study aims to develop a pilot IMH training programme for Early Years practitioners and evaluate its impact on practice. The project, led by the YK Infant Mental Health Specialist in partnership with Cork City Childcare and local Early Years Services, will translate and make accessible the science of IMH and early childhood development and apply this to a format that will build capacity in the everyday practice of Early Years Practitioners working directly with young children in an area of high socio-economic deprivation.

The training model is currently being developed by Young Knocknaheeny and is underpinned by the principles of infant mental health and well-being, tailored and guided by the Irish Association for Infant Mental Health (I-AIMH) Competency Framework<sup>®</sup> (2018), the principles of the Nurture Programme, the principles of Aistear and Siolta (the National Early Years curriculum and quality frameworks) and an analysis of the Education focused Early Years' Inspection Reports conducted by the Department of Education to identify current Early Years Practitioner needs in Ireland.

## Study Lead

Young Knocknaheeny ABC is linked with a number of Schools and Departments within UCC to form a cross-departmental Research Partnership. This Partnership guides the research agenda for the Young Knocknaheeny Programme and will lead the study. Particularly, the Principal Investigators for this study are Dr Shirley Martin, School of Applied Social Studies and Dr Margaret Curtin, School of Nursing and Midwifery.

## Proposed Research

The specific objectives of the research are:

1. To evaluate the implementation of a pilot Infant Mental Health training programme for Early Years practitioners
2. To conduct a pre-intervention baseline study to explore Early Years Practitioners' knowledge of IMH



3. To conduct post-intervention measures to assess the impact of the IMH training for early years practitioners

A study protocol has been developed and ethical approval granted for this research.

### Key Accountabilities

- To work under the direction of the Principal Investigators;
- To provide assistance in conducting research activities, including planning, organising, conducting, and communicating research studies within the overall scope of a research project;
- To work with the Young Knocknaheeny team to ensure that the research is conducted in a timely manner to complement the role out of the IMH training;
- Liaise with the relevant Early Years Centres to co-ordinate the implementation of the research;
- To coordinate and perform a variety of independent and team activities involved in the collection, analysis, documentation and some interpretation of information/results;
- To undertake tasks which may include recording results and preparing reports including conclusions and recommendations. To coordinate the development of forms, questionnaires and the application of qualitative and quantitative research techniques; write procedures manuals for data collection and coding;
- To conduct data analysis under the supervision of the PIs;
- To present information on research progress and outcomes to others responsible for the research project;
- To contribute to the publication of findings including to confer with the Principal Investigators in developing plans for research projects and to discuss the interpretation of results and the preparation of manuscripts for publication;
- To perform other related duties incidental to the work.

### Criteria

- A graduate qualification and/or significant experience in a relevant area.
- Knowledge and interest in child development desirable.
- Understanding of community-based working.



- Research experience.
- Good report writing and presentation skills.
- Good analytical skills and computer skills.
- An ability to work independently to a tight schedule.
- Capability of working effectively within a team to achieve results.
- Evidence of excellent organisational and communication skills.
- High levels of initiative are encouraged.

### **Budget**

The total budget for this research support work is €5,500.

### **Tender Application Details**

NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG is the lead agency for Young Knocknaheeny ABC. Therefore, the successful tenderer will be offered a contract with NICHE.

### **Tender Requirements**

The tender must not exceed 10 pages (minimum font 11).

It is envisaged that the time commitment per week will average around 7 hours per week for the duration of the contract period(s), with some weeks requiring more hours than others to enable smooth completion of the piece of work. The overall cost should be broken down into two parts based on a 75%/25% split of work to be completed from September to the end of December 2020 (invoiced in December), and work to be completed from early January to the end of February 2021 (invoiced in March).

The tender must demonstrate clear understanding of the tasks set out in tender and the overall aims and outcomes of the assessment process.

The successful bidder must be in a position to produce a Current Tax Clearance Certificate and proof of current, relevant insurance coverage(s). In addition, the successful bidder must retain records of tax reference numbers for any subcontractors where payments exceed €635 Euros (incl. VAT).



### **Assessment of Tender:**

Tenders will be examined initially with reference to the following:

- (a) Completeness of proposals as specified in this tender invitation.
- (b) Stated ability of the tenderer to meet all the criteria specified in this tender invitation.

### **Additional Information:**

- Additional information may be sought at the assessment phase.
- Before final decision, the most competitive tenders may be invited for further discussions on their proposals for the purpose of elaboration, clarification and/or aiding mutual understanding.
- Informal queries only to [admin.ykabc@nicheonline.ie](mailto:admin.ykabc@nicheonline.ie)
- NICHE shall not be liable for any costs and/or expenses incurred in respect of the preparation or the submission of any tender documents or associated material.
- Lowest tender is not a guarantee of success.

**Tender submissions must be received electronically by 4.30pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. Please email submissions to [admin.ykabc@nicheonline.ie](mailto:admin.ykabc@nicheonline.ie)**