



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Có-mhaoinithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Job Title: Youth Justice Worker, LOOP YDP

Number of Post(s) & Contract Type:

1 x Youth Justice Worker, Ongoing Contract

2 x Family Support Workers (Fixed purpose mat leave / ongoing)

Location(s): Laois (Portlaoise and Mountrath)

Foróige is an independent, non-profit national voluntary youth organisation engaged in out-of-school youth development and education. The organisation enables young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and the development of society. Foróige employs over 600 staff and involves thousands of volunteers in the creation and delivery of high quality services to young people through the operation of over 400 Foróige Clubs, the Big Brother Big Sister Programme and over 140 General Youth Services and Special Projects - including over 40 Youth Diversion Projects.

We are currently recruiting for 3 Youth Justice Practitioner roles (Youth Justice Worker & 2 x Family Support Workers Ongoing / Maternity Leave cover). Other YDP posts may become available during the course of this recruitment process. The Youth Justice Worker will engage with young people aged 12 to 17 years to reduce their level or risk of offending. The Early Intervention workers will engage with children aged 8 to 11 years to reduce their likelihood of future offending. The Family Support Worker will engage with the parents and caregivers of young people engaged in the YDP to enable them to support behaviour change in their young people.

These projects are part of a network of Youth Diversion Projects; funded by the Department of Justice and by the European Social Fund and Dormant Accounts, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána under the new Youth Justice Strategy 2021 – 2027 and will be managed by Foróige.

Key Responsibilities

- Assessing and responding to the needs of children and/or young people at risk of offending or re-offending.
- Engaging, building and maintaining strong, positive relationships with the target group on both a one to one and group basis
- Engaging these children/young people in a process of learning and development that will enable them to examine their own offending and to make positive lifestyle choices that will protect them from involvement in criminal, harmful or socially unacceptable behaviours.
- Designing, implementing and evaluating creative and responsive outcomes focused case plans and interventions for project participants.
- Engaging and supporting parents/ guardians to engage effectively in their young person's social and personal development to facilitate positive behaviour change.
- Ensuring compliance with Foróige policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Operating in accordance with the YDP Operational Requirements.
- Completing accurately and on time all of the administrative requirements of the project.
- Attending YDP advisory committee and referral assessment committee meetings as required and preparation of reports for same.
- Networking, co-operating, and enlisting the support of other agencies/organisations and community groups to enhance the development opportunities for project participants.
- Attending committee and team meetings as required by Management, Project Committee and Funders.
- Building and maintaining relationships with local stakeholders, particularly An Garda Síochána and other services engaged with young people in the catchment area.
- Administration, budget and resource management including compiling plans and reports as required by the funder and ensuring that deadlines are adhered to.
- Working collaboratively as part of the YDP team and the wider Foróige team.
- Any such other relevant duties as the board of Foróige and/or the Chief Executive Officer or the nominee of the Chief Executive shall deem necessary for the effective implementation and the policy and programmes of Foróige and the Youth Diversion Project.

Professional Qualifications and Experience (E=Essential; D=Desirable)

- Education to Degree standard preferably in the area of Youth/ Justice/ Social / Community Work (E) (candidates with exceptional, relevant work experience may also be considered in lieu of degree qualifications)
- Ability to relate to children or young people and engage the target group (E)
- Relevant paid or voluntary experience of working with children or young people (E)
- 1 years' experience in a YDP or similar Youth Work role. (D)
- Experience and understanding of YDP work and of working with young people facing adversity (D)
- Access to a car and full driving licence. (E/D - role/location dependent)

Person Specification (All Essential requirements)

- Ability to build and maintain effective relationships with children or young people
- Good interpersonal skills, including ability to liaise with a wide range of contacts and build and maintain effective working relationships
- Excellent standards of accuracy and attention to detail
- Ability to be proactive, use own initiative and work effectively within a pressurised environment
- Positive and flexible approach to working as part of a team
- Excellent written communications skills, including report writing and the ability to draft summary information and correspondence.
- Ability to follow organisational guidelines and processes.
- Good computer skills, including Word & Excel, PowerPoint and Social Media skills

Requirements of all Foróige staff (All Essential Requirements)

- Commitment to the purpose of Foróige and to work within the values, policies and procedures of the organisation
- To act consistently in a professional manner at all times
- To participate in regular supervision with your line manager
- Flexibility in relation to hours of work to meet the needs of the work. Work during unsocial hours will be required
- Identify training needs with your line manager and participate in training opportunities appropriate to the role
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About Youth Diversion Projects

Now is an exciting time in the development of youth justice services and interventions in Ireland. The Youth Justice Strategy 2021 to 2027 brings with it more opportunities than ever to make a difference in the lives of young people, families and communities.

The vision of the Strategy is “Collaborating across all sectors of government and society in the development and delivery of opportunities for children and young people, to harness support in their families and communities in order to strengthen their capacities to live free from crime and harm”. The Strategy focuses on maximising the opportunities for promoting positive behaviour change in young people who are at risk of coming into contact with the youth justice system. The Strategy is grounded in the real life experiences of these young people in Ireland, having been developed following a comprehensive process of consultation with a broad range of stakeholders invested in the lives of at risk young people, their families and communities. It takes a rights based approach to working with young people at risk, and is underpinned by a “no wrong door” principle outlining a commitment to child centred wrap around services. The Strategy emphasises the development of evidence informed programmes, interventions and supports, across all areas of the youth justice system including court processes, detention and legislation, as well as early intervention and diversion measures.

The Strategy prioritises implementation of measures to enhance the existing Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs). YDPs are community based, multi-agency, youth crime prevention initiatives which primarily seek to divert young people involved or at risk of becoming involved in criminal/anti-social behaviour away from the criminal justice system by providing suitable activities to facilitate personal development, promote civic responsibility and improve long-term employability prospects. A significant development is the expansion of YDPs, ensuring full geographical coverage, so that every young person who requires a service, will have access to it. In addition, comes the development of a range of more specialised interventions integrated into the YDPs, including initiatives for Early Intervention, Family Support and working with harder-to-reach children and young people. It is as a result of these developments that the current vacancies arise in Foróige YDPs.

All interventions delivered through Foróige YDPs, are needs led, evidence based and outcomes focused with a view to reducing the likelihood of a young person offending or re-offending. As such, the interventions vary from project to project and initiative to initiative, based on the individual needs and circumstances of the young people, their families and their communities. Interventions can take place in both group and one to one settings, on site in a project premises, or reaching out to the community and other suitable spaces.

Benefits

Salary: Foróige Youth Officer Salary scale:

€37,436, €38,994, €40,552, €42,113, €43,671, €45,235, €46,798, €49,127, €51,457

Starting point this role will be between Point 1 and Point 5 based on experience

Annual Leave: 29 days annual leave plus Good Friday

Pension: Contributory pension benefits.

Training & Development: Structured onboarding together with a 9 day Foróige Induction Programme. Ongoing CPD.

Study Leave: Up to 5 days paid Study Leave per year of course.

Organisation Culture: Support & Supervision policy and practises that supports your professional development.

EAP: 24/7 Employee Assistance

Career Break: Up to 2 years Career Break after 3 years service.

Unpaid Leave: Up to 6 months Unpaid Leave Break after 1 year service

Flexible Work: Flexible work practices that support work life balance.

Maternity and Paternity Benefit: Top up Maternity and Paternity Benefit pay.

Other Information

Garda vetting: Candidates under consideration for employment in Foróige will be subject to Garda vetting.

Hours of work: You will be expected to work a minimum of 35 hours per week. The position will require flexibility in relation to working hours. It is expected that you will work some late evenings/ nights per week and some weekend work.

Travel: This post will involve domestic travel within Ireland and occasional meetings. Travel and expenses will be paid in accordance with appropriate Foróige rates.

Applications: Please complete the Foróige Application form online [here](#)

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Unpaid Leave: Up to 6 months Unpaid Leave Break after 1 year service

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