



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



Job Title: Family Support Worker

Number of Post(s) & Contract Type: x2, (x1 Ongoing Contract, x1 Maternity Leave cover)

Location(s): Portlaoise/Mountmellick

About Foróige

At Foróige, you're not just taking on a job- you're joining a movement that empowers young people and transforms communities. With over 600 dedicated staff and thousands of volunteers, we work together to create impactful change through innovative programmes, clubs, and services.

Foróige is an independent, non-profit national voluntary youth organisation engaged in out-of-school youth development and education. The purpose of the organisation is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and the development of society.

About the Project

Working in a Youth Diversion Project, regardless of the role, will allow you to take a journey with young people and families, who are often the most marginalised and disadvantaged. Many have faced great obstacles, tragedy and adversity in their lives, yet are inspiring in their ability to cope, bounce back and often flourish, once given the appropriate opportunities and support.

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.

Foróige's philosophy underpins all of our work and this supports our passionate belief in the importance of giving second chances and opportunities to young people regardless of their circumstances. 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

The Family Support Worker will be employed by Foróige and will be given a contract of employment. It must be understood however, that if the position becomes redundant at any time during the period of the contract or if the funding for the post is discontinued or a post holder fails to perform satisfactorily, employment may be terminated.

Key Responsibilities

The duties of the Family Support Worker shall be notified by the Board of Foróige and/or their nominee. The function is achieved through fulfilling the main duties outlined below:

- Together, as a team, with the youth justice workers, identifying and supporting those families of young people who have offended or are at risk of offending, with the aim to reduce the offending behaviour.
- Working closely with the YJWs and using the information identified in the young person's YLS/CMI 2.0 to identify the needs and strengths of the family.
- To assess and respond to the needs of families, particularly parents and care givers of young people who are participants of the YDP or have been referred to the YDP in accordance with Foróige policy and procedures.
- Engaging, building and maintaining strong, positive relationships with the target group
- Using evidence based/informed approaches, provide group work, individual work, skills-based programmes, and recreational activities as appropriate for the parents and/or caregivers.
- Building and maintaining relationships with local stakeholders, particularly An Garda Síochána and other services engaged with families and young people in the catchment area.
- Ensuring compliance with Foróige policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Advocating for parents, care givers and families and attending meetings relevant to their needs, preparing reports as necessary.
- Attending YDP advisory committee and referral assessment committee meetings as required
- 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 referral assessment committee and advisory 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 Qualification, Experience

(D: Desirable; E: Essential)

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



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Person Specification (Essential)

- Ability to build and maintain effective relationships with young people
- 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 verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to follow organisational guidelines and processes.
- Knowledge and experience of systems, processing and administration
- Flexibility in relation to hours of work to meet the needs of the work.

Benefits to Support You

Salary: Foróige Youth Officer Salary scale: €38,558, €40,163, €41,769, €43,376, €44,982, €46,592, €48,201, €50,601, €53,001. The highest starting point for this role will be point 5.

Annual Leave: 29 days annual leave plus Good Friday.

EAP: 24/7 Employee Assistance.

Pension: Contributory pension benefits.

Bike to Work Scheme

Commuter Travel Tax Saver Ticket

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 practices that supports your professional development.

Progression Opportunities

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

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

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

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



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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 (for full time this will be up to 3 late evenings) 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](#).

All information related to Foróige, our annual report, our work, our projects and services is available on our website - please see www.foroige.ie for additional information

Foróige is not in a position to sponsor work permit applications. All applications should hold a valid work permit and permission for ROI.