Aoibhneas is a Domestic Abuse Support Agency working with Women and Children who are or have been affected by domestic abuse.

Aoibhneas provides a complete continuum of care within a service of excellence. A complete continuum of care arrangement provides for the access of women and children to supports at earliest intervention through provision of prevention and awareness raising programmes, community-based support, refuge accommodation, transitional accommodation and post refuge/ transitional support.

**Vacancy – Social Care Worker- Children and Youth**

**Job Title:** Social Care Worker- Children and Youth

**Location:** Aoibhneas CLG

**Salary:** €32,480- €47,025

**Hours:** Full time post, 39-hour week flexible working from time to time

**Contract:** Permanent

**Summary:**

Aoibhneas is seeking a Social Care Worker – Children and Youth to join our Team to provide support and structured services for the children of residents in Refuge and engaged through our community services, with an emphasis on participation in children’s activities; to ensure the safety and security of children resident in Aoibhneas and represent the work and ethos of Aoibhneas.

**Duties & Responsibilities**

**Client Services**

Under the general direction of the CEO and in consultation with the children’s mothers.

* To welcome new residents with children and ensure that they are familiarised with house rules, practices, services and activities available.
* To make an initial assessment of a child’s support needs and refer children in need of a more in-depth assessment to the relevant agency in conjunction with the Social Care Leader and and other designated persons.
* To accompany children and mothers to Child Guidance Clinics, Courts, Sexual Assault Units etc, when necessary.
* To play a part in meeting the unique needs and interests of each child as part of an agreed plan paying particular attention to their family circumstances.
* To provide ongoing emotional support to all children in crisis and to create opportunities for each child to share their feelings about his/her home situation, their fears and anxieties.
* To manage each child’s behaviour by creating a friendly, safe, happy and caring environment for all children.
* To identify behavioural difficulties and implement a behaviour management plan.
* To develop and implement suitable programmes to meet the needs of the children in refuge and community services.
* To create plenty of opportunity for children to engage in non-directed play to explore the playroom environment, choose their own activity and develop relations with other children in their own time and space.
* Where possible and appropriate, organise and structure activities such as arts, crafts or games. These activities must be developed to meet the particular needs, interests and ages for the children in residence at the given time. Therefore Social Care Workers need to be highly flexible and have the ability to adapt to the changing client group.
* To provide regular outings for children and utilise the local resources and amenities
* To encourage and welcome mothers to join in playroom facilities with their children including and when workers are off duty.
* To provide parenting support to mothers and to facilitate individual/group parenting classes if appropriate.
* To help mothers arrange temporary school placements for their children.
* To provide advice, information and support to non-residents by telephone and in person.

**Administration**

* Maintain accurate and up to date records of all case files.
* Liaise with and inform the Direct Line, on a regular basis, of issues arising from work.
* Prepare and compile departmental statistics

**Other**

* To work as part of a Refuge team, liasing with other staff in relation to services and supports for children/families.
* Attend child protection case conferences and case conference reviews
* To attend court hearings and give evidence as required.
* Ensure standards are maintained and adhered to inline with policy, procedure and legislation.

**Person Requirements**

Essential

* Third Level Qualification at degree level in child care, social science, social care or related field.
* A minimum of 3 years relevant work experience working in a social care setting with children/youth.
* Experience of key-working clients or individual case-work .
* Excellent knowledge and understanding of domestic violence and issues affecting women and children experiencing domestic violence.
* Understanding and working knowledge of Children’s First Legislation/ Child Care Act.
* Excellent facilitation, training and communication skills.

Desirable Criteria

* Flexibility/Adaptability
* Integrity
* Dependability
* Concern for others
* Independence
* Resilience/ Stress tolerance
* Initiative
* Self Control
* Experience of inter-agency working

**Terms and Conditions:**

* 39 hours per week
* Permanent contract
* Employer Pension Contribution of 5%.
* Annual leave 22 days inclusive of 2 wellbeing days with incremental days in line with service.
* Access to External Supervision and Employee Assistance Programme
* Access to Digital GP and Family Care Mental Health Support amongst other benefits.

Any interested applicants should forward their CV and a short covering letter stating their suitability for the role.

Please email [recruitment@aoibhneas.org](mailto:recruitment@aoibhneas.org) by 5 pm on Wednesday 17th January, 2024 for the attention of

Cristina Santamaría,

Head of Services

Aoibhneas CLG.

PO Box 5504

Dublin 17

Tel. 01 867 0805

*All offers of employment with Aoibhneas are subject to Garda Vetting. Aoibhneas is an equal opportunities employer.*