

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER (SOFT Partnership) JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Family Support Worker
Responsible to:	Strategic Development Officer (SDO), Speedwell Trust
Based at:	Coolnafranky House, Coolnafranky Demesne, COOKSTOWN.
Salary:	£27,668 (pro rata).
Hours:	21 hours per week;
Contract:	Fixed until end June 2021, subject to funding and performance.
Annual Leave:	28 days (pro rata), plus 12 customary days.

Background

The aim of the SOFT Project (funded by BIG Lottery) is to help young people reach their full potential at school. The SOFT project:

- Is tailored to the needs of families to help families facing challenges that may impact on the children's development and educational learning.
- Is a rapid response service delivered locally involving key stakeholders in a partnership approach.
- Offers a holistic approach to early intervention at the key transitional stages of a child's development between ages 4-12 years, offering families skills and knowledge to overcome challenges they encounter.
- Provides opportunities for children and families to learn together and feel part of their community, responding to local needs and gaps in services that have been locally highlighted.

SOFT Family Support Worker

Main Purposes of the job

- To assist with the delivery of the SOFT project across the SOFT partner organisations, where necessary linking with schools and other Family Workers;
- To organise and deliver courses/ workshops with partners;
- Contribute to internal reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the project;
- To assist with the development of strategic/action plans;
- To work with families from community and voluntary organisations, statutory bodies, schools and volunteers of the SOFT Partnership.

Person Specification

Essential Criteria

- A relevant third level qualification in social work, teaching or youth and community work.

Or

A minimum of 3 years' demonstrable experience of working with groups and/or families across the community sector.

- Experience of organising and running workshops and events to meet the needs of families;
- Experience of working in partnership with organisations to deliver programmes or projects;
- Experience of report writing and evaluation;
- Good oral and written communication skills as demonstrated at interview;
- Working knowledge/ experience of operating Microsoft Office;
- Access to transport that will enable the required work to be completed across all areas.

Desirable Criteria:

- A minimum of one year's experience of working in a community development setting;
- Experience of working with families through community involvement;
- Have undertaken recognised Child Protection/Safeguarding training within the last 2 years;
- Experience of working within a team environment and independently.

The Family Support Worker will operate from the SOFT offices but will be expected to travel to other venues and work with SOFT partners.

Personal Qualities:

- Willingness to work unsociable hours as necessary;
- A commitment to the aims, objectives and values of the SOFT Project and the lead Partner, The Speedwell Trust;
- Demonstrates a willingness to work as part of a team and to develop as an individual;
- A clear focus on outcomes;
- A willingness to respond effectively when flexibility is needed.

Duties and responsibilities of the post:

1. Development and delivery of family support programmes within the SOFT project in association with other staff, partners and outside agencies;
2. Building relationships with the SOFT partners, their families, children and young people;
3. Liaise with the SDO, Speedwell Trust regarding all issues associated with the SOFT project;
4. Assist with the development of training resources and programmes for families, educational staff and community based groups;
5. Facilitation of group work for parents and children;
6. Evaluation and report writing on work undertaken during delivery of the SOFT project;
7. Undertaking any training for the SOFT project;
8. To represent the SOFT Partnership on CYPSP and network with outside organisations to promote the work of the project;
9. To provide secretarial support to the SOFT Management Committee;
10. To respond to additional needs as identified by the Management Committee;
11. Assisting the work of other staff as directed by the Strategic Development Officer.