**Job Description**

**Post:** Family Support Worker

**Location:** Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum, Gasyard Centre, Derry

**Accountable to:**  Project Coordinator

**Salary:**  (NJC Scale 6)£26,975 Pro Rata

**Hours:** Part Time – 20 hrs per week

**Overall Purpose of the Job:**

To actively contribute to the development of the FACT Project on behalf of the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum. A key aim for the Family Support Worker will be to maintain a need led and early intervention model in collaboration with partner agencies to support young people and their families to build family resilience, and address needs of social, emotional physical and mental wellbeing of individuals to make meaningful change.

The Family Support Worker will support young people and their families with the right support, at the right time, to address risk factors and promote protective factors within the family. By providing direct support, meaningful engagement programmes, development of the BBHF Youth Ambassadors and enhancing community relationships. The Family Support Worker will target families with children and young people who are deemed to be at levels 1 and 2 on the Hardiker Model, i.e. families who are experiencing some level of difficulty and who require support on a short-term basis.

**Main Tasks and Duties:**

To assist families and children by:

* Supporting the development of positive relationships between the parent and child/ren and the family and school.
* Providing family learning opportunities to improve children's learning outcomes.
* Encouraging the take up of services by families who find services hard to reach.
* Providing support to parents to find pathways out of poverty related issues.
* Support families and children to integrate into the wider community and encourage social inclusion

To liaise closely with the coordinator and other key staff in the effective coordination of FACT Project.

To provide a need led and early intervention model of support directly to families and children, using evidence-based interventions within the home and community setting that have a measurable impact. Assisting and encouraging families / individuals to make their own decisions and choices.

To carry a caseload of children and their families.

To visit families in their homes – (early morning, evening, and weekend work) may be required as this is the time when families with children are together.

To support identified children in school if this suits the school and the families involved.

To complete an initial assessment that includes assessing risk with the young people / families.

Ensure value is placed on the whole person / family, and a strengths-based asset approach is used, which promotes the maximum level of independence, choice, and control. Ensuring a trauma informed approach is utilised.

To deliver group workshops and projects to young people and their families within school settings and in the community, including OCN programmes.

To support the youth ambassadors to influence decision making, have a positive impact and affect change in their communities and services BBHF offer. Supporting the facilitation and implementation of their work.

To create and maintain good working relations with all stakeholders to ensure complementarity in delivering interventions and programmes.

To signpost children and their families to identified supports and to liaise with referral agents and support agencies as needed.

To liaise with families and children, seeking their views and opinions regarding the services which they receive. Ensuring the Youth Voice is central to service delivery.

To ensure adherence to and implementation of all relevant legislation and Health Forum policies

To ensure that appropriate information systems are maintained, and reports prepared to allow easy monitoring of intervention work.

To ensure that programmes are targeted, organised, and implemented appropriately within the Health Forum’s targeted areas.

To strictly observe the principle of confidentiality

Participate in ongoing supervision and appraisals

To operate Health and Safety at Work procedures.

To carry out any other reasonable duties required by the Project Coordinator, Programme Manager, Director, or Health Forum Board Members.

*This job description will be subject to review in the light of changing circumstances and may include any other duties and responsibilities as may be determined in consultation with the jobholder. It is not intended to be rigid or inflexible but should be regarded as providing guidelines within which the individual works.*

Person Specification

**Post:** **Community Wellness Practitioner**

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| **FACTORS** | **ESSENTIAL** | **DESIRABLE** |
| **Qualifications and/or Experience** | An appropriate third level qualification and 2 years’ experience implementing programmes  Or  NVQ level 3 or equivalent in health/social care with three years’ experience of implementing programmes | Experience of working in various community settings  Experience of providing support to families experiencing disadvantage/discrimination  Working with partner agencies to achieve the best outcomes for clients.  Experience of delivering groupwork workshops and programmes to young people and/or families.  Experience of delivering OCN qualifications. |
| **Knowledge and Skills** | Knowledge and understanding of the developmental, educational and care needs of children and young people.  Knowledge and understanding of the difficulties that parents and carers can encounter and of the way in which they can impact on the health, social and emotional well-being of children and young people.  Knowledge of safeguarding and child protection operational practice, including the ability to identify, assess and respond to risks.  Ability to communicate clearly with professional bodies, colleagues, and clients – verbally and in writing.  IT Literate | Knowledge of the various community groups and support services in the area  Knowledge of Health and Social Service provision  Knowledge of Neighbourhood Renewal objectives  Knowledge of performance indicators and quality assurance  Knowledge of trauma Informed Practice  Knowledge of a strength Based Asset approach  Knowledge of the UNCRC |
| **Personal Attributes and Special Circumstance** | Possess a full valid driving licence and access to a car OR can demonstrate mobility to carry out the functions of the job effectively and efficiently.  Can work flexible hours.  Positive outlook  Supportive and empathic approach  Committed to providing a quality service with a focus on personal empowerment |  |