

**Believe in  
children**



**Barnardo's  
Northern Ireland**

## **SERVICE INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Social Worker - Family Placement Barnardo's Fostering NI (BFNI)**

You will have received a Job Description and Person Specification for the post of Social Worker – Family Placement.

You will be joining a highly experienced team of Social Workers who are trained in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) and the Narrative Model, working to promote placement stability for children in care. We have a strong reputation in staff development and retention.

We are entering a growth phase in our development and are eager to recruit someone who is passionate about providing high quality care for children with complex needs. All Social Workers will have the opportunity to develop assessment, training and therapeutic skills.

You will have knowledge and experience of fostering or adoption services throughout NI and have an understanding of the voluntary sector.

BFNI's Belfast office serves all 5 Trusts in NI and as we are keen to extend our reach, we can negotiate office space, dependent on the successful applicant's home location.

Applicants should be qualified social worker registered with NISCC. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Check via Access NI.

When completing your application form please refer to your skills, knowledge and experience in relation to the Person Specification and Job Description. This should be done with an understanding of the context of the family placement service described.

### **Barnardo's Fostering NI**

#### **Background Information about the Service**

The Fostering Service has been in existence since 1980 and is the longest established Independent Fostering Agency in NI, recruiting, assessing,

approving and supporting carers to work with children and young people from 0-18 years. For the past 14 years, we have worked closely with Barnardo's Children's House successfully working with residential staff to recruiting carers and supporting young people moving on to permanent foster care.

During our 38 years in fostering we have worked with children and young people with a wide range of needs and developed particular specialism with children with disabilities and with complex attachment histories.

We have high foster carer and retention rates and as a consequence, provide many long term foster placements. Our service offers an established support and training package for all our foster carers.

Over the past few years, the service has expanded, currently providing placements across NI and working with each of 5 HSC Trusts. We are keen to continue to extend our reach so can offer flexibility in respect office location for potential applicants.

BFNI has a strong reputation in valuing diversity and ensuring equality of opportunity for children, carers and staff members alike. Currently, 10% of our carers identify with the LGBTQI community and our foster care panel similarly reflects our core values of equality, diversity and inclusion.

### **Objectives of the Service**

The primary aim of Barnardo's Fostering NI is to provide the highest quality foster placement for children and young people who cannot live with their birth families, striving to ensure that Barnardo's strategic aims, to achieve safe childhoods, strong families and positive futures are realised for every child with whom we work.

Our objectives include:

- To provide foster placements where each child and young person has a stable, secure and caring environment where they can reach their full potential
- To carefully match the needs of children and young people with the skills of the foster carers whilst respecting diversity and giving equal access to all opportunities
- On the direction of the Trusts, promote and support relevant contact with birth family and significant others
- In partnership with professional colleagues, provide support and guidance to children, young people and foster carers in matters relating to emotional health, education and positive behaviour strategies

- To recruit, train and support a diverse range of foster carers who can meet the range of complex needs presented by young people requiring placement throughout the region
- To ensure all foster carers have access to training, guidance and the support of a qualified supervising social worker working from a working within a trauma and attachment theoretical base
- To provide out-of-hours support to foster carers
- A commitment to children, young people's and foster carer participation to enable us to progress on our journey of continuous improvement