

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please see below summary of the following post:

Post and Grade:	Project Worker 3 – Young Carers Schools Liaison Worker
No of posts:	1
Service/Location:	Young Carers Service/ Northern and Western Trust areas
Contract:	22.2 hours per week for 24 months (until July 2024)
Salary:	£27,814

Initial Location of Post

You will be based at 36A Westland Road, Magherafelt but will have the opportunity to work from home and you will be required to travel within the Northern and Western Trust areas.

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Children's Services Manager

Overview of Service

The Barnardo's Young Carers Service is part of the regional Northern Ireland Regional Young Carers Service. The Service works with young people aged 8-18yrs who are caring for a relative at home and are impacted by that role.

Young carers may have a role in looking after a sibling with a disability, a parent with a physical or mental health problem or a family member who has been misusing substances.

The support offered to young carers and their families starts with an initial assessment following which agreement is reached on a range of supports including; individual work, peer support, focussed group work.

Specific Post Holder Responsibilities

This project will focus specifically on Young Carers in post primary schools, to support educational professionals and to create more effective links between agencies and professionals across health and education and help them signpost young carers to Barnardo's for support.

The postholder will work with schools across the Northern and Western Trust areas to support education staff to put in place practical supports for Young Carers in their schools. The postholder will help to develop awareness throughout the teaching staff and pupils and provide longer term support for not only the current pupil population, but those to come in future. They will support schools to understand the needs of young carers and to put mechanisms in place to improve their educational experience and balance their caring responsibilities with their studies.

The postholder will engage with schools and offer training, resources and support to become more effective in:

- **Empowering** staff to support and identify Young Carers, then provide appropriate support and guidance.
- **Identifying Young Carers** (with particular reference to those who are 'hidden'; ensuring that they provide the right support at the right time)
- **Understanding their needs** as Young Carers in school and how best to help them (practical support and solutions for pupils who are managing education and a caring role)
- **Reducing Stigma** by educating school staff about the role of Young Carers and their unique circumstances
- **Developing in-school policies** for supporting Young Carers and assisting them to employ strategies as detailed in the available Guidance for Supporting Young Carers in school (including identifying staff members who could 'champion' Young Carers and be the "go-to" support person, developing Young Carers groups in school)
- **Signposting staff** to Barnardo's Young Carers Project for additional support outside of school.

The postholder will also deliver pupil workshops to:

- **Raise awareness** of the needs of young carers. This will help young people understand what life may be like for a friend or peer with caring responsibilities.

- **Empower** Young Carers to self-identify and enable them to seek support and guidance when needed and reduce isolation.
- **Reduce Stigma** for Young Carers through education and clarity on what it means to be a Young Carer.
- **Signpost** Young Carers to the Barnardo's Young Carers Service for additional support outside of school.

The postholder, along with Barnardo's Children's Services Manager, will engage with key stakeholders within the Education Department to champion the need for Young Carers to be explicitly identified as a group in education policies, such as the Extended Schools Programme (DE, 2006), thereby recognising their need for additional support to reach their academic potential.

The postholder will also run social media campaigns that promote messages about professional responsibility to Young Carers and messages that help reduce the stigma of identifying as a Young Carer. The Project Worker will also ensure that key messaging and campaigns are linked into annual events such as National Carers Week and Young Carers Action Day.

Duties of the post will include:

- Work with the Children's Service Manager to plan, review and develop the project.
- Ensure service objectives for the project are achieved within agreed standards and guidelines.
- Manage, deploy and develop all project resources.
- Contribute to the development of policy/good practice.
- Apply safeguarding and child protection procedures and to report breaches as necessary.
- Work with the Children's Service Manager in all appropriate stages of programme planning, design and review to ensure that objectives remain relevant to needs, are achieved and are provided cost effectively.
- Report as required on progress, maintain accurate records and contribute to evaluation of service.
- Initiate and maintain contacts/communication with appropriate external agencies.
- Monitor spending within agreed project budget.
- Contribute to safe working practices, eg health and safety risk assessments.
- Contribute to the promotion and public awareness of the project via presentations, attendance at meetings, etc.

- Participate in meetings, conferences, workshops, etc. to disseminate learning from the project.

Essential Criteria

- Relevant qualification: NVQ Level 4 or equivalent.
- Experience of dealing with issues and factors that impact on children and young people and/or families (e.g. caring role, disability, poverty, disadvantage).
- Experience of working autonomously; planning diary to manage workload and problem-solving issues that occur in the course of a working day.
- Experience of direct work with children and families.
- Experience of applying Safeguarding policies and procedures and promoting the welfare of children.
- Experience of proactively engaging with other professionals and of challenging professional judgements as appropriate.
- Experience of being able to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Experience of delivering presentations / workshops in a group setting.
- Knowledge of legislation relevant to project aims.

- As the work will include travel across two large Trust areas, the post holder must have access to a car. A full driving licence and appropriate business insurance are also essential, and evidence of these documents will be required if appointed.

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of working within a school setting.
- Experience of working with Young Carers and/or their families.
- Experience of developing materials and activities and/or specific programmes or focused schemes of work to achieve a specific outcome.