

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHEET**

# Additional Information for Schools Counsellor / Therapist Post

You will have received a **Schools Counsellor/ Project Worker** job description and person specification. *This is a generic role in use throughout the organisation and therefore Barnardo’s uses generic job descriptions and person specifications when advertising for such roles.*

When completing your application form, please refer to the skills, knowledge and experience required as detailed in the **Person Specification** and also any further information included in this **Additional Information Sheet**. This should be done with an understanding of the context of the service described.

Barnardo’s School-based Counselling Services

# Location of Post

Schools Based Counselling Service Office Base: 230c Belmont Road Belfast

BT4 2AW

*This is the office base for the post. Work will be carried out in a range of school venues across Northern Ireland.*

# History of the Service

Barnardo’s is one of the most experienced providers of school-based counselling in the UK. We have been delivering school-based counselling services to primary, post-primary and special sector schools in Northern Ireland since 2008. During that time the service has developed a unique, award-winning delivery framework known by the acronym ‘CSSO’ which we have used to pioneer a **C**hild-directed, **S**ystem-Focused, **S**trengths-Based and **O**utcome-informed approach to counselling children and young people. All staff working in the service will receive training in the Barnardo’s CSSO Delivery Framework.

# Objectives of the Service

* To provide a confidential school-based counselling service to pupils within primary, post-primary and special sector schools in Northern Ireland
* To offer a range of additional counselling services to pupils, parents/carers and school staff as required, including parent and staff consultation, drop-in services and resilience workshops.

# Specific Responsibilities

* To undertake an initial collaborative assessment with a young person, including consultation with parents/carers and school staff where appropriate.
* To provide a confidential counselling service to young people, where counselling needs have been identified at assessment.
* To undertake regular counselling reviews.
* To undertake weekly outcome monitoring with all pupils engaging in a counselling/therapy intervention.
* To identify pupils presenting with more specialist mental health needs and to make onward referral as appropriate.
* To identify and respond to all safeguarding concerns in line with school and Barnardo’s policies.
* To record all aspects of a counselling intervention within agreed timescales.
* To engage in external clinical supervision and line management.
* To complete the CSSO Counselling Framework training.
* To engage in formal and informal Continuing Professional Development opportunities.
* To work as part of a professional counselling team.

# Service Specific Essential and Desirable Criteria

*Please ensure that you outline in your application how you meet the essential criteria in the generic job description and the service specific criteria below. The first section –* Service Specific Essential Shortlisting Criteria - *is particularly important. To be shortlisted for interview you MUST clearly indicate on your application that you fully meet each of the shortlisting criteria as listed.*

1. ***Service Specific Essential Shortlisting Criteria***
2. At least Diploma level qualification in Counselling or Play Therapy or Masters – or equivalent – level qualification in Art, Music or Drama Therapy.
3. Registration with one of the following professional bodies: BACP, IACP, PTUK or HCPC.
4. Demonstrable experience of counselling/therapy with children and young people.
5. Demonstrable experience of working in partnership to support and advise parents/carers and professionals.
6. Candidates must also be able to drive and have a valid driving licence or, alternatively, be able to demonstrate how they can meet the mobility requirements of the post.

## Other Essential Criteria

* Awareness of factors impacting on children and young people’s emotional and mental health.
* Demonstrable ability to prioritise work and meet deadlines.
* It should be implicit in the information provided that applicants understand the issues faced by people whose life experiences differ from their own.

## Desirable Criteria

* Accredited member of *British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy* (BACP)or *Irish Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy* (IACP), where relevant.
* Specialist training in counselling children and young people.
* Experience as a school-based counsellor.
* Experience in providing online counselling to children and young people.

**Staff Benefits**

* Monthly clinical supervision
* Line Management from a highly experienced CYP therapist
* Supported onboarding / induction process
* Training in the Barnardo's 'CSSO Counselling Framework'
* Planned Continuing Professional Development opportunities (at least 3 days per year)
* Flexible working arrangements
* Lively and supportive team culture
* Mileage expenses
* 26 days annual leave and 10 statutory/public holidays (pro-rata) per annum
* A contributory pension scheme,
* Additional holiday purchase scheme
* A range of staff discounts

**Successful candidates must undertake an Enhanced Access NI with Child Barred List Check.**