

The person specification describes the professional qualifications, skills, knowledge, experience and personal competencies required for this post.

ESSENTIAL

Candidates must be able to demonstrate that they meet the following essential criteria in their written applications and if shortlisted, in more detail at interview:

Experience

- Relevant 3rd Level qualification –BSC/Dip/MSc in Social Work, Diploma HE/Degree/MSc Youth & Community Work, PGCE or Bch Education plus at least one years experience within the last three years of working directly with children and/or young people within a group setting.

OR

- A degree in one of the following: Psychology, Sociology, Social Policy or a related discipline plus at least two years experience within the last five years of working directly with socially excluded /vulnerable young people and/or adults within a group setting.

OR

- A minimum of five years experience, gained within the last eight years, of working directly with socially excluded /vulnerable young people and/or adults within a group work setting.
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- A sound knowledge and understanding of the issues faced by socially excluded children and young people, demonstrable by skills and experience.
 - Excellent written and oral presentation and communication skills.
 - A commitment to and experience of encouraging user involvement and consultation.
 - Ability to advocate and inform decision making for and on behalf of children and young people.
 - Experience in the design and delivery of group work programmes or activities.
 - Experience in programme development, implementation and evaluation.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Youth Participation Officer

- Confident in the delivery of information to a variety of audiences.
- Effective networking skills and practical experience of multi agency and partnership working.
- An understanding of legislation and policy as it relates to children and young people affected by homelessness.
- Knowledge of best practice in relation to Child Protection, Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Health and Safety issues.
- Sound understanding of the professional boundaries required for working with children and young people.
- Ability to adapt style of working to meet varying levels of skills and abilities of groups/individuals.
- Experience of motivating and offering support and/or mentoring to young people.
- Creative and imaginative engagement methods, for working with children and young people.
- Enthusiastic about working with children and young people from diverse communities and ability to implement equality policies and practices in all aspects of work.
- Highly self motivated, and the ability to organise and take responsibility for own workload.
- Flexible working style and willingness to, on occasion, work and travel throughout Northern Ireland and outside normal office hours.
- A commitment to the promotion of young people's rights.
- Practical experience of IT, including
- A commitment to CHNI values and principles.

DESIRABLE

- 1 year's practical experience of working directly with children and/or young people affected by homelessness.
- Experience of delivering training and/or informal learning opportunities to young people.
- Experience in the design and delivery of presentations at public conferences/seminars or events.
- Experience in the co-ordination or production of youth orientated publications or resources (for eg; information resource, DVD, newsletter, website, magazine, e-zine etc).