



## Irish Foster Care Association Therapeutic Support Co-ordinator

<b>Role:</b>	<b>Therapeutic Support Co-ordinator (Support Service)</b>
<b>Position:</b>	30hr week, fixed term contract
<b>Location:</b>	Based at IFCA Office, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
<b>Reports to:</b>	IFCA Head of Support Service

### Who we are

The Irish Foster Care Association is the representative body for foster care in Ireland. Child-centred and rights-based, IFCA promotes family-based solutions for children and young people in 'out of home' care. We are committed to supporting excellence in foster care in Ireland so that children have the best chances in life. We provide information, support, and learning opportunities for all those involved in foster care and we promote the development of positive change for children in alternative care. We are an independent, membership - organisation and have a role in advocating and campaigning for change.

### Mission Statement

*The Irish Foster Care Association is the representative body for foster care in Ireland. Child-centred and rights-based, IFCA promotes excellence in foster care for all those involved.*

### IFCA Values

- Excellence in foster care for all those involved
- Open, respectful and transparent ways of working
- Equality and inclusion
- A partnership approach between all those involved in foster care.

### IFCA Support Service

The Irish Foster Care Association's Support Service offers independent and professional support in fostering situations. The aim of the service is to offer the best support during difficult times to make the process clearer and easier for all involved.

### Life after Caring Project

Through its support service, IFCA deals with an average of one thousand cases a year. Issues relating to allegations, placement disruptions and support for birth children feature prominently. The sense of grief and loss is a predominant theme identified by those who respond to callers to IFCA's National Support Helpline and by IFCA's National Support Volunteers. Loss has been identified as integral to, and an on-going component of fostering. Therefore, looking after foster carers during these processes promotes a healthy life after caring.

IFCA has identified a number of elements to the Life after Caring Project as follows:

1. The design and delivery of workshops and development of leaflets/booklets that incorporate practical strategies for participants to integrate into their lives. Content will include dealing with grief and loss specifically, and emotions associated with same; self-compassion techniques; promoting resilience and positivity; emotional intelligence; communication techniques; introduction to mindfulness and meditation.
2. The provision of access to a counselling service that will allow for ongoing professional support to be offered to those who have identified their own individual support needs, but require more guidance over a prolonged and consistent basis.
3. The third component focusses, with the involvement of other organisations, on the establishment of educational modules, as well as a sustainable therapeutic support system for children of foster carers who have experienced loss as a result of their experience of foster care.

*This project was approved by Government with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund*



### **Therapeutic Support Co-ordinator Role**

The Therapeutic Support Co-ordinator will work with the Heads of Services within IFCA to coordinate and deliver on this project in 2018.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Development of “Life after Caring” Workshop content and leaflets/booklets in conjunction with IFCA Heads of Learning and Development, and Support Service
- Co-ordination of the ‘Life after Caring’ Project in conjunction with the IFCA Head of Support and wider IFCA Team
- Oversee the design, implementation and evaluation of the project in conjunction with the Head of Support and wider IFCA Team
- Facilitation of workshops nationwide
- Evaluation of workshops nationwide
- Liaise with IFCA’s management and Heads of Services in relation to relevant aspects of the Project
- Assist in the development of other aspects of the project.
- Maintain records relating to all aspects of the work
- Maintain professional requirements to all aspects of the work
- Liaise with external stakeholders in relation to the pilot

- In conjunction with the Heads of Learning and Development and Support, develop a train the-trainers course to train others in the delivery of workshops developed as part of the Project in the future on behalf of IFCA.
- Assist in the recruitment of mental health professionals for counselling for foster carers
- Ensure IFCA's quality indicators for the all services are adhered to.

### **Team**

- Attend regular team meetings
- Contribute to team meetings and the overall work of the team

### **Competencies:**

- Good time management skills and dependability
- Project management experience
- Excellent interpersonal, oral/written communication skills
- Ability to work within a team and enthuse colleagues
- Flexibility with regards to working hours
- An understanding of the process and content of support services and a passion for quality and innovation in the service
- An understanding of foster care and a strong commitment to the strategic goals of the Irish Foster Care Association
- Ability to work independently and take the initiative within the operational parameters set by Head of Support Service
- Ability to build partnerships with statutory, voluntary and private sector organisation.
- Actively participate in effective organisational communication systems
- Represent the organisation's position on key decision-making groups, as requested by the CEO, to proactively represent the organisations views in relation to foster care
- Develop strategic alliances and partnerships in furthering the values and developmental priorities of IFCA in relation to the brief
- Develop and maintain pro-active and respectful working relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- Maintain records relating to all aspects of the work
- Maintain professional requirements to all aspects of the work
- Promote and enhance the organisations commitment to continuously improve the standards of service and development of initiatives to members and funders, as appropriate.
- Engage pro-actively in supervision

### **Required Qualifications & Experience:**

- Masters / Degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy
- Qualification in, and evidence of facilitating workshops and groups. E.g. Train the trainer
- Proven experience in developing and presenting workshops and group facilitation, particularly on topics of 'loss'.

**Terms & Conditions:**

1. Fixed Term Contract of 30hrs per week
2. Location: Primarily IFCA National Office, Tallaght, Dublin 24
3. Garda Vetting and attendance at Induction training is required
4. Two satisfactory references of which one should be from the current employer
5. Access to car and hold a full Irish driving license.

**Salary Scale:**

- Salary €33,000, pro rata.

Please email your CV and cover letter to Breda O'Donovan, Director of Finance, HR & Communications at [breda.odonovan@ifca.ie](mailto:breda.odonovan@ifca.ie). The closing date is **5pm, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Shortlisting will be applied, and interviews will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018.