**Job title:** Community Development Worker

**Hours:** 21 hrs per week

**Contract:** permanent, subject to funding.

**Location:** Based in Portlaoise, Co. Laois; with regular travel around Co. Laois and occasional regional travel required.

**Responsible to:** Deputy Service Director

Established in November 2006 Laois Domestic Abuse Service is a non-governmental organisation, and registered charity.

It is the only specialist service in Laois working to provide group programmes, support, information, counselling and advocacy services to women and children/young people subjected to domestic abuse and coercive control.

The aim of the role is to engage with local communities, agencies and groups in Laois, working with them to build confidence in recognising and responding to domestic abuse in their community, while promoting the services offered by Laois Domestic Abuse Service in the county, increasing incoming referrals.

**Person specification:**

* Working closely with the staff team, the Community Development Worker will be responsible for helping to build strong collaborative relationships with the wider community in Laois as well as with other service providers and stakeholders.
* They should have experience of working directly with marginalised groups, specifically women.
* They should have an interest and demonstrate a commitment to working against domestic abuse and coercive control.
* It is very important that the candidate can demonstrate a strong grounding, understanding and/or training in community work approaches which seek to empower people to advocate for themselves.
* They should have skills in facilitation of groups, delivering training workshops, mentoring and should be computer literate.
* This important work needs an energetic person who is committed to achieving positive change in relation to domestic abuse and coercive control in Laois.

**Key areas of work:**

* Working with the staff team to implement the LDAS strategic plan.
* Working with the local Community to design projects and actions that will help to address domestic abuse and coercive control.
* The community development worker will be involved in developing and delivering training, mentoring, supports and campaigns addressing domestic abuse and coercive control in Laois.
* As part of this work the community development worker will need to maintain records, compile reports, respect the confidentiality of those they work with and work with other stakeholders and agencies towards the aims of the role
* The Community Development Worker will assist the staff team with promotion of the organisation and communications whether in local media or through social media channels.
* Any other duties agreed with the line manager.

**Qualifications & Experience**

**General:**

* Have excellent communication, administration and computer literacy skills
* Be able to demonstrate that they have experience working from a community development approach
* Be able to demonstrate a high level of awareness and understanding of the experience/needs of women and children subjected to domestic abuse and coercive control in Ireland
* Have a **full driver’s license and access to a car for use** in this role.

**Essential:**

* A minimum of 2 years’ experience in a similar role in the Community & Voluntary Sector or a related field
* Experience of working in the area of coercive control/domestic abuse or a related social issue
* Have the requisite knowledge, skills and qualities to carry out responsibilities of the post
* An understanding of the effects of abuse and social isolation on communities and a commitment and passion for securing better outcomes for women and children subjected to domestic abuse and coercive control in the areas of physical and mental health, community safety, education, housing, employment, culture and creativity, and parenting.

**Desirable:**

We welcome applicants with qualifications in any of the following areas Community Development, Sociology, Human Rights, Family Support, Coaching, Facilitation, Youth Work or related fields.

**Terms and conditions of employment**

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| **Tenure** | * 21 hours per week.
* This post is funded by Cuan and is permanent dependent on continuing funding to the service.
* 6 month probation applies to this position.
* This post is subject to Garda Vetting.
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| **Salary** | Salary Scale for this position will be in line with the Social Care Worker Scale, €39,951 (21h pro rata €23,971). |
| **Health**  | A candidate for and any person holding office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service. |
| **Travel** | The successful candidate must be prepared to travel in the course of their work, a full clean driving license and use of a car is essential for this post and must be noted on your application.  |

*I****f you do not have relevant qualifications but have relevant work experience please let us know in your application.***

*Please complete the application form fully.*

*Applications may be sent via email to Lina Kragel* *lina@laoisdomesticabuseservice.ie*

***Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 6th June at 3pm.***