**About Laois Domestic Abuse Services**

Laois Domestic Abuse Service (LDAS) is the dedicated specialist provider of support, information, and advocacy for women and children in County Laois subjected to domestic abuse and coercive control. Our organisation is committed to a feminist, domestic abuse trauma-informed approach, working to empower women and children to live safely and free from abuse. We currently offer a range of community-based services, including one-to-one support, accompaniment to court and other services, schools work, advocacy, and psychoeducation programmes.

LDAS is entering an exciting phase of development. We are working to develop a new residential refuge for the county, which will provide safe accommodation for women and children fleeing high-risk situations. This role is integral to our growth, ensuring a seamless and consistent support system for children and young people, both in the community and within the future refuge.

**Job Title: Child/Young Person’s Support and Development Worker**

**Job description**

**Role Purpose**

The **Child/Young Person’s Support and Development Worker** plays a key role in delivering domestic abuse trauma-informed, empowerment-based support to children and young people (up to 18 years) who have been subjected to domestic abuse and coercive control. The role involves one-to-one support, group facilitation, advocacy, referral coordination, and collaborative inter-agency work.

You will work directly with children/young people and their mothers, support their emotional and developmental needs, and help ensure their voices are heard in service planning and delivery.

**Key duties**

* Conduct needs and risk assessments; develop tailored individual safety and support plans.
* To develop and implement both short and medium term one-to-one and group based interventions focused on resilience, safety, and wellbeing, based on needs/risk assessments. These plans will require interagency working
* Provide practical support in crisis situations, including accompaniment and referrals
* Collaborate with mothers and caregivers to identify appropriate supports for children.
* Encourage child-parent reconnection and communication post-trauma.
* To evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the work carried out, using relevant evalution tools for work with children and young people
* To co-ordinate and integrate children and young people’s supports within the organisation to ensure a streamlined and effective programme and response is implemented across the organisation.
* To promote the children and young people’s services and programme in the community, to external agencies and groups through engagement with a range of stakeholders
* Keep up to date with legal and policy developments related to DSGSBV and child welfare.
* Participate in supervision, reflective practice, and training opportunities.
* To record and document the work of the programme with children ensuring good record keeping practices are in place in line with organisational policies and practices, including accurate and confidential client notes and digital records via the CRM system.
* To participate in staff meetings, training and undertake any other duties requested by the organisation including policy work, campaigning and training
* To work in accordance with Laois Domestic Abuse Service’s analysis of domestic abuse as a gendered issue.

**Personal Specification**

**D=Desirable E=Essential**

**Experience**

* At least two years’ experience working with vulnerable children/young people and their families (E)
* Experience of working with families in crisis (E)
* Experience of assessing the needs and risks to children, young people and their families (E)
* Experience planning and delivering support and development sessions, including evidence-based programmes of activities to children and young people as a group or individually (E)
* Experience of working as part of a team and ability to organise own workload. (E)
* Experience of prioritising case load safely and sensitively (E)
* Experience of strong interagency working and joint service provision (E)

**Qualifications**

* 3rd level degree (BA in Applied Social Studies, or similar) and relevant experience of working with children and young people (E)
* Other relevant training and/or professional or voluntary experience (D)
* Completed child protection training (E)
* First Aid Training (D)

**Skills**

* Ability to communicate calmly and effectively, particularly with children, young people, their non-abusive parents on the issues affecting their lives in terms of Domestic Violence
* Excellent verbal and written communication skills including report writing (E)
* Be able to liaise and promote strong interagency working with relevant agencies with responsibility for children and young people’s needs (E)
* Ability to work on own initiative have strong self- motivation, be reliable and flexible in work practices as well as being a strong team player (E)
* To create, plan, develop and implement support plans and group programmes for children and young people based on identified needs (E)
* An ability to assess situations and act safely, appropriately and professionally (E)
* Using professional experience and judgement in line with the organisation’s policies to safely and appropriately undertake risk assessments and safety plans for each child/young person (E)
* Demonstrable Facilitation skills for the development and delivery of small group programmes with children and young people (E)
* Demonstrable Strong IT skills (E)
* Work to the organisation’s child safeguarding policy and its associated procedures (E)

**Knowledge and Understanding Of:**

* A theoretical understanding Child Development, child assessment, individual and group programme planning, child intervention processes and evaluation of the work (E)
* Evidence based programmes and approaches to working with children and young people affected by trauma and to demonstrate an understanding of the impacts of trauma on children and young people (E)
* Current legislation and key policy documents relevant to children and young people including on topics such as children’s rights, child welfare(E)
* Understanding of safeguarding procedures and child protection issues (E)
* Working knowledge of domestic violence and the associated issues facing children and young people (D)
* The importance of health and safety within a work environment with children (E)

**Other requirements**

* Ability to work in a non-judgemental manner and a commitment to the equality and human rights of women, children and young people and utilise a child centred approach (E)
* Hold an up to date driving licence and have the use of a vehicle for work (E)
* Collaborative approach to team and inter-agency working.
* High levels of confidentiality, integrity, and emotional intelligence.

**Salary:** €42,286

**Full-time:** Monday toFriday

**Contract**: Permanent subject to funding

**Application Process**

The application is by application form only. Completed forms can be sent for the attention of the Office Manager to lina@laoisdomesticabuseservice.ie **Closing Date is 5pm Friday 11th July 2025**.

**Late applications will not be accepted**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**Please note any offer of a position is subject to Garda Vetting.**

**Laois Domestic Abuse Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer.**