

Position	Project Worker – Better Finglas – Preparing for Life Mentor
Location	Wellmount Road, Finglas, Dublin 11
Employment Type	Permanent and Part-Time 20 hours per week
Salary	€20,269 - €31,330 (Depending on Experience)
Contact Person	laura.gallagher@barnardos.ie
Closing Date	Monday 23 rd March 2026
Interview Date	Monday 6 th April



Better Finglas is one of a small number of projects in Ireland which is supported through the Area Based Childcare (ABC) programme. The ABC programme is an early intervention and preventative initiative funded through TUSLA.

Better Finglas was developed by a wide consortium of groups and individuals working in Finglas including, Barnardos the HSE, Dublin City Council, TUSLA the Child and Family Agency, Finglas Cabra Drugs Task Force, Tolka Area Partnership, County Childcare Committee, local childcare providers, and primary school principals. Better Finglas recognises the benefits of early intervention strategies for children – the main target group for the project is 0 to 8 year old children and their parents.

Our vision is of a community where all services voluntary, community and statutory, are working together with families to improve the developmental, health and educational outcomes of young children living in the area. We do this by the provision of unified evidence based programmes and quality services to children and their parents from pregnancy to 8 years of age.

The role of a **Preparing for Life Mentor** falls under the “Pregnancy and New Parents” strand. The mentor will deliver the Preparing for Life - Home Visiting Programme, to prospective and new parents in the Finglas Community. The role of the PFL Mentor is to equip parents with the knowledge and skills they need to help their children develop.

**Preparing for Life Mentor
Project Worker**

Job Description

Post:	Preparing For Life Mentor – Project Worker
Location:	Finglas
Responsible to:	Better Finglas Project Leader
Works with:	Barnardos Colleagues, Service Users, Steering Group, Partner Agencies and Funders/ external stakeholders,

Job purpose

- To implement programmes that respond to the needs of children and families referred to the service, working in partnership with families and other organisational, community and voluntary bodies.
- The mentor will work to a clearly outlined programme manual with the expectation of delivering the following outcomes for the targeted children, their parents and families.
 - Year on year improvements in children's physical, psychological and emotional health, and in their educational, speech and motor skills.
 - Year on year improvements in parent's psychological health, aspirations for their child, and their parenting skills.
 - Improved school readiness.
 - Improved parenting and enjoyment of parenting.
- Mentors will deliver these objectives by;
 - Enabling families towards self-reliance in meeting their own needs,
 - Enabling families to meet the development needs of their child,
 - Ensuring families have access to information on available services and are enabled to utilise these services in an effective and timely fashion.

Core Job Requirements

- Working with a case-load of families as directed by the Project Leader. This work will take place both in the family homes and also in various other locations in the community.
- Participating in induction and programme training prior to commencing work with families.
- Adhering to the Programme Manual for Preparing For Life.
- Participating in training to deliver Parenting Programmes and baby massage.
- Participation in planning, delivering and evaluating group training as per the programme manual.
- Supporting parents/children to access appointments with various specialists as appropriate and accompanying parents/children at these appointments where necessary.
- At all times working to support parents to be pro-active in their parenting role and avoiding creating a dependency by parents on the mentor.
- Developing quality relationships with families based on mutual respect, clear communication, integrity, honesty and confidentiality.
- Mentoring these families through the delivery of a set of messages and skills as laid down in the programme manual.
- To assess the needs of the children and the families engaging with the project.
- To be vigilant for signs of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and any concerns regarding the welfare of children. To record concerns promptly and accurately. To consult with the Designated Person and take appropriate action in accordance with Barnardos Child Protection policy.
- To work with families in a variety of ways, including group work, individual work and family work, centre based and outreach work.
- To key work families in order to meet their needs and to advocate on their behalf.
- To liaise effectively with families and other statutory, community and voluntary bodies and to attend and contribute to reviews and case conferences as required.
- To work in partnership with other Barnardos services to best meet the needs of children and families by collaborating resources with planned interventions targeting groups/families of shared need.
- To keep regular records in relation to all aspects of work and prepare reports as required.
- Maintaining case files for each family and completing reports as required by the programme or evaluators in line with Freedom of Information guidelines. Mentors will record all required data on the database designed for the programme.
- To gather information statistics and prepare reports as required, including administration of databases as appropriate to the role.

- To identify and document to the line manager any unmet needs of children/young people/carers/families within the service and to participate in the advocacy work of the agency.

Requirements Specific to this Post

- To represent Barnardos and Better Finglas ABC as appropriate at local/regional or at national level, this may involve media and advocacy work.
- The Preparing for Life Mentor works on behalf of Barnardos as the Lead Agency and is also responsible for reporting and updating the Better Finglas Steering Group on their strand of the programme, and will work with them to deliver the Barnardos ABC Programme.
- Facilitate the delivery of baby massage groups to parents in the catchment area.
- Facilitate/Co-facilitate the delivery of a variety of evidence based parenting programmes. This will include planning each session in line with the programme manual, supporting parents' attendance, follow-up after each session with participants, recording of outcomes, and learning.
- Supporting parents/families to develop their confidence and self-sufficiency through positive feedback, role modelling, ongoing constructive discussion and one to one mentoring.
- Facilitating referral pathways (within the context of the National Service Delivery Framework and the Child and Family Agency) to other services.
- Participating in the development of the programme through presentations, promoting the programme, etc.
- Developing child and family education and information resources for use on the Better Finglas ABC programme.

Preparing for Life Mentor Person Specification

Personal Attributes

- Commitment to the delivery of quality services to children, young people, families and carers.
- A team player, highly motivated and well organised.
- Excellent communication and writing skills.
- Ability to work autonomously, use initiative, self-motivate, with an ability to motivate others.
- Ability to act on own initiative and consult where appropriate.
- Ability to engage in reflective practice.

- Ability to work under pressure and to make decisions in consultation with the line manager when appropriate.
- To be committed to adhering to best practice in the work and be innovative and open to change, accepting feedback and ongoing coaching support
- Flexibility, creativity, enthusiasm, adaptability and perseverance.
- Ability to form objective relationships with children, young people, families/carers, colleagues and other agencies.
- Ability to work with families experiencing significant disadvantage.
- Excellent communication skills and an ability to build rapport and liaise effectively and work cooperatively with other service providers, community groups and representatives of the voluntary, community and statutory sectors

Experience/Knowledge

- 2 years' relevant minimum experience ; which may comprise of at least 1 year post-qualification experience and up to 1 year equivalent pre-qualification experience working with vulnerable children and their families.
- Experience of working in partnership with families and carers.
- Experience of planning, implementing and reviewing programmes with children and/or families.
- Working knowledge of Child Protection Legislation and Guidelines.
- Experience of and an ability to manage cases and maintain files is essential.
- Experience of working in the community or a community based programme
- Experience in working as part of a team.
- Knowledge of the impact of discrimination on minority groups and marginalised families.
- Experience in working with families that have experienced multi-generational disadvantage is desirable.

Qualifications

A recognised third level practice qualification¹ (minimum Level 7 on the NFQ) in one of the following:

Early Childhood Care and Education / Social Care / Education/ Social Work/ Youth Work; or related discipline (Nursing, Psychology, Early Years Education).

Note: this list can be varied depending on the specific requests of the post.

Applicants must be registered or eligible for registration with CORU as a Social Care Worker. This includes those currently in the process of registration under

¹ Course content should include relevant student placements

Applicants with a Social Care or Social Work qualification must be registered with CORU as a Social Care Worker or Social Worker respectively. Those eligible for CORU registration who are currently in the process of registration through their qualification or under CORU's transitional arrangements (grandparenting route) will be required to provide evidence that they are in the process.

A full driving licence and access to the use of a suitably insured car is essential.

**Barnardos is an equal opportunity employer.
We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all.**