

Position	Project Workers X3 – Birth History Service
Locations	Cork and Claregalway
Employment Type	Fixed term to 31 st December 2026. Roles will continue subject to funding. A range of Full and Part-time opportunities are available
Salary (Depending on Experience)	€37,498 – €57,961 (Depending on Experience) This is the fulltime salary for 37 hours. Part-time hours will be pro-rata accordingly
Contact Person	Patricia Sweeney patricia.sweeney@barnardos.ie Phone: 091- 454489
Closing Date	Thursday 7 th of May
Interview Dates	Cork: Tuesday 26 th of May Galway: Thursday 28 th of May

Barnardos Birth History Service has a national remit.

Project Workers will join a therapeutic team with a base in either Cork City or Claregalway.

Cork: Blackmore House, Meade Street, Cork City

Galway: “The Sanctuary” 27 Chois Chlair, Claregalway

Dublin: Barnardos Christchurch Square, Dublin 8

Barnardos has been providing a support and advice service for adopted people, birth parents, and adoptive parents since 1977.

Barnardos Birth History Service specialises in providing supports for adults around adoption and adoption related practices historically in Ireland. The service provides therapeutic emotional and practical support to adults who were adopted, boarded out, and whose births were illegally registered. As well as to birth parents. The service is trauma-informed, grounded in a deep understanding of the impact of interpersonal trauma often associated with early life separation, and subsequent related experiences. Due to service users being based across Ireland and overseas, a range of modes are used to provide therapeutic support, namely, phone, online or in person which can be centre or homebased. The service is provided on an individual and group work basis. The Birth History Service is funded by Tusla.

The service also provides a practical support service for adults who were boarded out as children prior to the *Child Care Act 1991* and works closely with the Origins Family Tracing service.

Project Worker Job Description

Post:	Project Worker
Responsible to:	Project Leader, Barnardos Birth History Service.
Works with:	Barnardos teams, adults impacted by adoption / boarding out / illegal birth registration / birth parents / Tusla partners.

Job purpose

To provide an individual and group therapeutic service which responds to the needs of birth parents, adopted adults, adults who were boarded out as children and individuals subject to an illegal birth registration who are referred to the service using a trauma informed approach.

Core Job Requirements

- To assess the needs of the adults engaging with the project.
- To plan, implement and review programmes for adults based on an assessment of their individual and group needs.
- To work with adults in a variety of ways, including group work and individual work. Both centre based and outreach work will be required.
- To work closely with other members of the service to ensure the most appropriate offering of support is made available to service users.
- To be vigilant for signs or concerns of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect in regard to retrospective disclosures. To bring any concerns to the attention of the Designated Person and in keeping with Barnardos Child Protection Policy.
- To liaise effectively with and other statutory, community and voluntary bodies.
- To keep regular records in relation to all aspects of work and prepare reports as required.
- 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 adults within the service and to participate in the advocacy work of the agency.

Requirements Specific to this Post

- To have an understanding of the historical context of adoption practices in Ireland and their emotional, social, and psychological impact on individuals.

- You will be expected to travel if adults are not in a position to attend the service centres and so must have the flexibility to travel in line with the needs of the work.
- Online work is a key part of the role.
- Occasional evening work will be required to facilitate groups.

Note: This Job Description will be reviewed and updated in line with the needs of the work.

Project Worker Person Specification

Personal Attributes

- Commitment to the delivery of quality services to adults.
- Ability to act on own initiative and consult where appropriate.
- Ability to work under pressure, 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.
- Flexibility and adaptability are essential for this post.
- Ability to form objective relationships with adults.

Experience Required

- A minimum of two years' experience in working with adults in a therapeutic setting. This may consist of up to 1 year relevant, equivalent pre-qualification experience and at least 1 year post-qualification experience.
- Experience in working with adults affected by early loss/trauma.
- Experience in facilitating group work is an advantage.
- Specific experience in working in the field of adults impacted by adoption and foster care is highly desirable.

Qualifications

A recognised third level practice qualification (minimum Level 7 on the QQI) in one of the following, Social Work, Social Care, Psychology, Psychiatric Nursing

An additional relevant therapeutic qualification is desirable, such as Counselling, Psychotherapy, Art Therapy or Family Therapy, though not essential.

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 this in process.

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