



Muscular Dystrophy Ireland

Family Support Worker

Job Description

About the MDI:

Muscular Dystrophy Ireland is a member driven voluntary organisation which aims to provide information and support to people with neuromuscular conditions and their families through a range of support services. MDI's objective is to promote through practical empowerment, independent living for people with muscular dystrophy.

MDI supports advocating for services to enable people with neuromuscular conditions to fully participate in society and to live a life of their own choosing. MDI also aims to support and fund research into neuromuscular conditions.

Job Purpose/Summary:

Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI) offers a range of support services nationally to persons affected by neuromuscular conditions and their families. The holder of this position will deliver a Youth Respite Service and coordinate summer camps provided by MDI to its members in the Western Health Service Executive Area and deliver a Family Support Service providing support to families in the Western and the Midlands Health Service Executive Area.

The ideal candidate will have a good understanding of health and social services and the needs of people living with disabilities. The candidate will have experience of outcome driven advocacy work and experience in the provision of practical support to adults/young people with disabilities and their families. A full clean driving licence is essential to this post.

Location: The MDI Regional Office location is currently TBC; however, it will be located in either the Galway or Mayo area and will be dependent on the successful candidate. The

holder of this position will deliver a Youth Respite Service in the Western HSE Region (Galway, Roscommon & Mayo) and deliver a Family Support Service in the Western (Galway, Roscommon & Mayo) and the Midlands HSE Region (Longford, Westmeath & Offaly).

Reporting to: National Head of Services

Contract Type: Full-Time, One Year Fixed Term Contract

Key Responsibilities:

Family Support Service

Family & Member Support

- Provide personal contact and support to persons affected by neuromuscular conditions, their families and carers.
- Support members and their families in accessing short term respite care in accordance with the MDI's Respite Policy.
- Assess the needs of new members and advocate as appropriate.
- Provide information to members and their families on accessing entitlements to financial supports, health care and equipment.

Advocacy

- Network and advocate with the Health Service Executive, Department of Social Protection and all other appropriate statutory and voluntary service providers in liaison with MDI in order to provide adequate service provision for individuals and families.
- Promote the concept of independent living and personal assistance to members and encourage members to participate in opportunities appropriate to their expressed needs.
- Liaise with other organisations and groups to advise on and encourage accessibility for MDI's members.
- Promote the work of MDI with statutory and other service providers through training, networking and raising awareness.

Stakeholder Management

- Seek opportunities for the provision of activities in employment, education, recreational and well-being driven initiatives.
- Plan and develop a social support network for members.

***Transport & Event Management/Holiday Programme-** As stated above under Youth Respite Service.

General

- Work as part of a multidisciplinary team with National MDI staff e.g. fundraising, PR, Administration, Information support etc.

- Provide monthly reports, monitoring data and service evaluations as required by the Head of Services.
- Participate in national fundraising initiatives.
- Participate in internal supervision with the line manager and external one to one and group supervision with a trained accredited professionals.
- Attend team meetings and staff training as required.
- Engage in fundraising initiatives and partake in the annual MDI Awareness Campaign.
- Any other duties that may be required by the organisation to full fill the needs of the post.

Person Specification

Essential Requirements

- A minimum of 3 years' experience of working with young people and adults with disabilities and or delivering youth/families services to marginalised groups in society.
- Relevant 3rd level qualification.
- Proven ability to plan projects and activities.
- Proven ability to work on own initiative, independently and as part of a wider team.
- 1 – 2 years' experience of organising and managing people.
- Proven ability to work.
- Experience of report writing and excellent communication skills.
- Excellent administration and time management skills.
- Computer literate (Microsoft Office Suite).
- This post requires flexibility which includes evening and weekend work.
- Due to the nature of this post a Full, clean drivers licence is essential.
- Will need to complete the following training (will be provided by the organisation):
 - Manual Handling
 - First Aid
 - Children's First
 - Gluais Training

Desirable Requirements:

- Familiarity with the Irish social, educational and medical systems
- Experience of compiling statistics

Key Behaviours:

- Organised and focussed.
- Empathy
- Diplomacy

- Determination, flexibility and a sense of humour
- Commitment to the aims and goals of Muscular Dystrophy Ireland.

Terms and Conditions

- One Year Fixed Term Contract.
- This is a full time position- 8 hour day, 40 hours per week, one hour paid break.
- Probation period 6 months
- 21 days annual leave
- This post is subject to Garda Clearance
- Salary €29,907
- Due to the nature of the service, flexible working is a feature of this role and evening and weekend work may be required.
- Being available to attend one week-long camp is a key feature of this role.
- The above position is subject to availability of ongoing funding

Please email your CV and Cover Letter to: **headofservices@mdi.ie**

The closing date is **5pm, Monday 12th of August 2019.**

Shortlisting will be applied, and interviews will take place in August.