SWAN Youth Service GYDP
Family Support Worker Job Description

EMPLOYED BY: SWAN YOUTH SERVICE LTD.

REPORTS TO: GYDP Project Leader of SWAN YOUTH SERVICE LTD.,

MAIN ROLE: To provide focussed support to families of young people referred to/ engaged with SWAN Youth Justice program. Families engaged experience a range of complex needs. Family support aims to improve parents' capacity to support their children in educational attendance of children, pro-social activities, etc. Family support aims to increase the skills, confidence and abilities of all family members to live their daily lives in a positive and safe way. Youth Justice work aims to reduce offending behaviour among its participants, increase positive engagement in the community, and improve young people's personal social, and educational prospects.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITES

1. **In Conjunction with the project leader and in line the Youth Justice project the Family Support Worker will:**

   a. Through a critical social education approach, develop trusting and positive working relationships with young people and their families to the point that s/he encourages them, challenges them, helping them develop their social and personal skills/resources.
   b. To engage in outreach, doing house calls to families and visiting appropriate agencies.
   c. To build knowledge and understanding of local resources and community and statutory services, including Social Services, Health, CAMHS, Schools and voluntary services, and communicate effectively with them in the best interests of the child and family.
   d. To work alongside colleagues within SWAN GYDP to assess the needs of families and young people referred for support and develop appropriate strategies and supports.
   e. To help plan creative and innovative responses to families' needs and keep high quality records and assists with the preparation of reports.
   f. Collaborate with SWAN's centre based youth work, street work and youth employment programs to ensure the best outcomes, and carry out joint events and programs where appropriate, eg. summer programs, community fun days, etc.
   g. Attendance at meetings as required eg. team meetings, subcommittee meetings;

interagency work etc.

h. Compiling any reports deemed necessary by the Project Leader, Director or Board of Management.

i. Actively participate in team meetings, supervision sessions, team evaluations and plans, and other support and developmental processes.

j. Evaluate the work of the project using the IYJS evaluation and reporting systems

k. Liaising with other agencies engaging in integrated approaches in working with young people and families in the community in order to maximise the service provided, including a limited attendance at appropriate committees.

l. Engage in the development of appropriate policies and responses to issues affecting young people, e.g. drug abuse, involving local schools, parents and other agencies.

m. Advocate strongly for the rights of young people and their families who have been left on the margins and to fight their cases with them, with the agencies concerned.

n. Participate in relevant in-service training as agreed by the service manager.

o. Effectively carry out administration duties relating to the work such as program records, report writing, time sheets, etc.

p. Carrying out all lawful instructions of the management committee.

2. **Participating in the Service Performance Development Review System and engage in supervision meetings.**

3. **As a mandated person report harm of young people to the DLP/Tusla and assist Tusla in assessing those concerns.**

4. **Maintaining good working relationships with colleagues.**

5. **Maintaining a high standard of work performance, attendance, appearance and punctuality.**

6. **Ensuring the highest standards of confidentiality are maintained.**

7. **Any other duties as may be assigned from time to time.**

The nature of this post requires the holder is flexible in working hours to cover the operational times of the service and will involve scheduled evening and weekend work.