JOB TITLE: Youth and Community Engagement Worker

BASE: Jigsaw Cork

RESPONSIBLE TO: Jigsaw Project Manager with a close working relationship with the Youth Engagement Coordinator

CONTRACT TYPE: Full time, Permanent

POSITION SUMMARY:
Jigsaw is an innovative youth mental health systems change initiative where young people are partners. The role of the Youth and Community Engagement Worker is to ensure that young people have the supports they require to fully participate in the local Jigsaw Service, and to engage young people and those working with young people in supporting and promoting youth mental health. This includes:

- Supporting young people to act as partners in the design, implementation and ongoing evaluation of Jigsaw through the structure of a Youth Advisory Panel.
- Supporting the development and implementation of initiatives that develop the capacity of young people to act as ambassadors and change agents in promoting youth mental health and;
- Supporting the development and implementation of initiatives that grow capacity in paid staff and volunteers in the local community to act as ambassadors and change agents in promoting youth mental health.

This post will involve facilitating the development of the Youth Advisory Panel in Jigsaw Cork.

JIGSAW:
Jigsaw is Ireland’s National Centre for Youth Mental Health. Set up in 2006, Jigsaw is a charitable organisation committed to changing how Ireland thinks about and supports young people’s mental health. Young people are our core focus, but at Jigsaw we do far more than support them; we involve them. Direct participation by dedicated young people is central to all three of our programmes: Service, Research and Engagement. Young people help to enhance our understanding of the challenges they face and, equally importantly, they help us develop creative and appropriate solutions to those issues.

We deliver the Jigsaw service in ten communities providing direct prevention and early intervention mental health supports to young people aged 12-25, working with the HSE, other mental health services and the broader community to give young people somewhere to turn to and someone to talk to.

We also conduct research to improve our understanding of all aspects of mental health and wellbeing among young people. This research is applied to influence change and improvements in systems that impact on young people’s mental health.

Nationally, we work with a youth advisory panel (YAP) made up of young people from the local Jigsaw services and others. We also have an adult advisory panel and a range of ambassadors from the worlds of sport and music. Together we work to change the national conversation about mental health from one of stigma and mental illness to one of openness with a focus on minding our mental health, as we do our physical health.

JIGSAW SERVICE:
The Jigsaw service is an innovative youth mental health systems change initiative developed by Jigsaw; The National Centre for Youth Mental Health that supports young people aged 12-25 to achieve better mental health and wellbeing.

The core objectives of the Jigsaw Service are as follows:
1. To ensure access to youth friendly, integrated mental health supports when and where young people need them in their community.
2. To build the confidence and capacity of front line workers/volunteers to promote and support young people’s mental health.
3. To promote community awareness around youth mental health by enhancing the mental health literacy of the community and reducing the stigma surrounding mental health.

Jigsaw aspires to place the needs and energies of young people and the wider local community at the heart of the thinking and planning of the service. It aims to integrate and harness the best of mental health expertise and supports for young people that are already available within the community. It also seeks to design and implement innovative, evidence-based programmes, policies and practices so that young people are better able to seek help and support in accessible settings where they feel respected and safe.

**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:**
- Support young people to act as partners in the design, implementation and ongoing evaluation of Jigsaw through the structure of a Youth Advisory Panel.
- Support the development and implementation of initiatives that develop the capacity of young people to act as ambassadors and change agents in promoting youth mental health.
- Deliver talks and workshops in community and education settings about the nature of mental health, help-seeking and Jigsaw Cork.

**Youth Participation and Engagement**
- Support the development and implementation of an effective youth participation strategy.
- Facilitate the involvement of young people in Jigsaw through recruitment, induction, training and ongoing support of a representative Youth Advisory Panel (YAP).
- Facilitate YAP meetings on a regular basis to ensure that young people are at the centre of the work of Jigsaw and in order to enable the ongoing identification of issues and concerns relating to youth mental health as perceived and experienced by young people.
- Support Jigsaw’s YAP to develop and resource a youth participation plan that sets clear goals and actions for the active and inclusive participation of young people from the local community, in the ongoing planning, implementation, promotion and evaluation of Jigsaw.
- Review the effectiveness of the YAP work plan and the various youth participation and engagement strategies in conjunction with the Jigsaw Project Manager and Jigsaw’s Youth Engagement Coordinator.
- To liaise with the Jigsaw Project Manager/Clinical Coordinator to ensure that the mental health and wellbeing of YAP members is promoted and supported, as needed.

**Community Engagement:**
- Represent Jigsaw at local community meetings (e.g. Child and Family Support Networks)
- Strengthen and further develop the localised Youth Mental Health Networks that were developed by Jigsaw and local service providers
- Play a key role in communicating with a broad range of stakeholders and producing reports / presentations for various audiences.
- Developing appropriate promotional materials for the service, in collaboration with Jigsaw.
- Work in collaboration with the Fundraising and Communications Manager to identify funding opportunities for youth and community engagement activities.

**General duties**
- Participate in Jigsaw education, training and networking events as appropriate, e.g. Jigsaw Learning Network.
- Maintain accurate, confidential records of practice using the Jigsaw Data System and co-
operate with requirements for data collection, outcome measurement and statistical returns.

- To comply with Jigsaw’s Child Protection and Welfare Policy.
- Be flexible regarding working hours in line with the needs of the project (incorporating late evening and weekend work).
- Prepare reports and updates for the Project Manager/Jigsaw/Youth Engagement Coordinator.
- Participate in team meetings and attend other meetings as deemed necessary.
- Undertake other duties as may be requested by the Project Manager/Jigsaw as required.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

**Essential Criteria:**

- Degree or equivalent in community development, youth work or in a relevant health, education or social sector discipline.
- Minimum of two years’ experience in developing and implementing programmes relevant to the youth and community sector.
- Experience of working with young people and community groups in a community setting.
- Passion for enabling youth participation.
- Strong presentation, communication and group facilitation skills.
- Full, clean driving license and access to a car.

**Desirable Criteria:**

- Experience of working in a collaborative manner across multiple agencies and sectors.
- Knowledge of theory and practice in youth and community work.
- Experience of planning and evaluating projects
- Familiarity with local services for young people e.g. education, health, community and voluntary agencies.
- Strong organisational, administrative and report writing skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Demonstrate evidence of computer skills including use of Microsoft Office, e-mail and social media.

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Factors taken into account in determining an appropriate scale include the candidate’s knowledge, skills, experience and qualifications relevant to the job. The salary range for this role will be €27,000 - €42,000.

- Jigsaw operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Employees have access to the scheme on successful completion of their six-month probationary period as well as the bike to work scheme and annual travel saver tickets.
- Annual leave will be 25 days, exclusive of public holidays.
- All Jigsaw staff members are required to obtain Garda clearance as a condition of their initial and continued employment.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at 1pm.

*First round interviews will take place on Thursday 1st June 2017 in Cork.*

*Second round interviews will take place on Thursday 8th June in Cork.*
For further information go to www.Jigsaw.ie or contact recruitment@Jigsaw.ie or (01) 4727 010.

Jigsaw is an Equal Opportunities Employer.