The Good Shepherd Centre
Church Lane, Kilkenny, R95 PP3F
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KILKENNY VOLUNTARY HOUSING ASSOCIATION KVHA

**Name of Project: Own Front Door Project (OFD)**

**Location: Carlow – In Person**

**Introduction to the Model**

The OFD project seeks to develop effective and sustainable Emergency accommodation and services (through housing, as an alternative to hostels and hotels) for families and single people referred by the relevant Local authority. The project worker will then assess the individuals/family needs to establish appropriate services and supports including schools, parenting and childcare for families. The key objective is to ensure a coordinated response to access and exit appropriate housing and healthcare and social support to exit homelessness and sustain a home long-term. Some case work will be allocated under our Housing Plus programme to support long-term tenants in crisis and ensure long-term tenancy sustainment.

Good Shepherd Centre works in conjunction with Mental Health Service Area 5, and in partnership with Kilkenny Council, Tipperary, Laois and Carlow County Councils.

**Main Roles and Responsibilities**:

1. Work within the framework of the overall objectives and Policies of the Kilkenny Voluntary Housing Association.

2. To undertake assessments and support planning (recovery focused) with clients. To assist clients, address recovery goals and objectives in keeping with life skills and tenancy sustainment.

3. The contract is specified purpose and subject to the ongoing requirement of the service and appropriate funds being available to the service.

4. To ensure to support tenants in accessing recovery focused training, education and employment opportunities.

5. To work as part of a multi-disciplinary team and service.

6. To maintain a caseload of clients and offer clients ongoing support until cases are handed over to the appropriate support services.

7. To accompany and provide support to clients with appointments to other services, where appropriate

8. To be responsible for keeping up to date casework records, daily logs and written assessments. Inputting information on the Focus Ireland database and PASS.

9. To work in close liaison and co-operation with other teams across mental health, Addiction, Tusla, schools and community-based services, in particular other Statutory and Voluntary Agencies as deemed appropriate

10. To work to the service model and standards of best practice

11. To meet regularly for supervision of work with your assigned Supervisor

12. To attend all nominated training by your line manager

13. To supervise students or volunteers as requested by assigned supervisor or senior manager.

14. To work a flexible roster over 7 days and evenings to meet the objective of the service

15. To implement existing policies and procedures and to input into the development of new ones 16. To plan, implement and evaluate the daily activities.

17. To undertake such other duties as might be reasonably assigned from time to time in consultation with the Team Leader/service manager.

18. To be vigilant to any Health, Safety and Welfare risks in the workplace and bring any concerns to the attention of your line manager or Health & Safety Representative

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To engage with the identified service users with a view to facilitating them in defining and attaining their own housing and recovery goals, based on the 'recovery principles' of hope, control and opportunity. The worker will use a strengths-based approach in:

• Conducting needs assessments, which will inform agreed care plans: This will involve identifying and agreeing how the service user would like to be supported by the worker and a discussion about the needs and actions written into the service user's care plan/clinical file. Areas may include, mental health, addiction, training and education, health, employment, parenting and childcare and accessing long-term housing.

• Assisting the service user to navigate processes required by the Local Authority

• Assist the service user monitor for available private rented housing solutions on a weekly basis. Assisting the service user with viewings and welfare applications.

• Ascertaining and supporting the service users' preferences in relation to fuller participation in their local and wider communities

• Supporting the service user in developing life skills which will foster independence and autonomy; this may involve assistance with practical tasks

• Communicating with the service user's support services to review their needs and/or care plan; this will involve direct contact with key service provider staff who will have been named in the referral.

• Facilitating peer support of those with lived experience when appropriate

• Supporting the service user in sustaining his or her tenancy by addressing the key issues and planning for risk management when required.

• Supporting the service user to self-advocate when required or advocating on his or her behalf as agreed. S/he may be supporting the service user to engage with the approved advocacy organizations when appropriate

• Case managing their referrals to optimize tenancy sustainment and independent living.

• Promoting the service user's safety, health and wellbeing.

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**Essential Criteria**

2 year post qualification experience in a related field

Full clean driving licence and access to a car

Level 7 or above in social care

Good verbal and written skills

Excellent problem-solving skills

**Skills:**
Good verbal and written skills Problem solving skills Full clean driving licence

**Benefits:**
Paid Holidays Pension Fund E.A.P