



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: ANTENATAL FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER

Salary: £ 17,035/annum

Hours: 30 hours per week, Monday - Friday

Accountable to: Greater Shankill Partnership

Reports to: Shankill Sure Start Coordinator

Area: Greater Shankill area

Holidays: 25 days/annum plus 12 statutory days

Role:

The role of the Antenatal Support Worker is to offer emotional and practical support to parents, principally mothers, during the antenatal and postnatal period.

The principal responsibilities of the post will include:

1. To befriend and provide emotional support to women during the antenatal and postnatal stage through regular home visits. This will include contributing to the development of an action plan using the Parent and Baby Star for support with the family and signposting to specialist services where appropriate
2. To provide information, support and guidance during the antenatal stage on a range of issues including parental health and well-being, preparation for the birth, labour, pain relief, external support agencies etc.
3. To promote the importance of parentcraft/antenatal classes and encourage the woman to attend. This may include accompanying the woman to the antenatal clinic, antenatal class and/or to GP visits.
4. To encourage the participation of the expectant father in the antenatal process
5. To promote the importance of parental health and well-being for the developing foetus, especially in relation to substance misuse, parental nutrition and smoking.
6. To provide information, support and advice on breastfeeding as the preferred option for feeding baby and providing support to enable mothers achieve this.

7. To provide emotional support and understanding of the additional stress which may be experienced at this time – especially to those suffering from, or who are vulnerable to postnatal depression. To signpost to specialist agencies where appropriate.
8. To provide support during the early period after the birth to help mother adjust to life with a new baby eg by helping mum establish routines.
9. To encourage attachment and bonding by promoting and modelling attachment behaviours to new mothers with a view to promoting positive infant mental health.
10. To provide information, support and advice to new mothers on issues relating to weaning and feeding baby, child development, importance of immunisation uptake, child and home safety.
11. To encourage attendance at baby clinics and ensuring that immunisation schedules are maintained.
12. To work with families to enhance the child's development and support parents understanding of their crucial role in this, including the importance of positive parent/child interaction.
13. To liaise with statutory, voluntary, community and voluntary agencies, where appropriate, to share information, maximise partnership working, and ensure the development of effective integrated services for families and children.
14. To monitor, evaluate and maintain appropriate records of contact with families in line with existing monitoring and evaluation systems used by Shankill Sure Start.
15. To work in a confidential and professional manner that recognises the importance of the welfare and safety of children and their families.
16. To work as a member of the Shankill Sure Start team, attend team meetings and contribute to the ongoing development of the programme.
17. To undertake training as required by Shankill Sure Start.
18. To carry out any other duties which may be reasonably requested

The duties and responsibilities outlined in this job description are not meant to be definitive nor restrictive and may be modified to meet changing needs. It should be noted therefore that duties, designation and location of the post might be subject to change in the future to meet the changing requirements of the service.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title:	Antenatal Family Support Worker
Salary Scale:	£17,035/annum
Hours:	30 hours per week, Monday to Friday
Accountable to:	Shankill Sure Start
Reports to:	Shankill Sure Start Coordinator
Area:	Wards of Ballysillan, Crumlin, Glencairn, Highfield, Shankill and Woodvale
Base:	Martin Centre. However, you may also be required to work in either the Alessie or Hannah Centre

Role

The role of the Antenatal Support Worker is to offer emotional and practical support to parents, principally mothers, during the antenatal and early postnatal period.

Essential Criteria

Qualifications

NVQ Level 111 in Childcare and Education or Health & Social Care or equivalent

Experience

- A minimum of two years' paid experience, gained within the last four years, of providing a family support/home visiting service to parents
- A minimum of two years' experience, gained within the last four years, of working with children and families
- Experience of facilitating group-based programmes

Knowledge

- Knowledge of issues impacting on pregnant women
- Knowledge of infant feeding
- Knowledge of child development from birth to age five
- Knowledge and understanding of the role of parents and carers in children's development
- Insight into the needs of families under stress
- An understanding of child protection issues

Abilities

- An ability to work as part of a team and on own initiative
- Ability to motivate and support others towards change
- Facilitation skills
- Well developed organisational skills, including flexible approach and ability to cope with a changing and varied workload
- A high standard of written and verbal communication and presentation skills
- Current full driving licence valid for use in the UK or demonstrate mobility to fulfil travel requirements of the post. This criterion will be waived in the case of an applicant whose disability prohibits driving but who is able to demonstrate suitable alternative arrangements

Desirable Criteria

- Nursing qualification
- Experience of planning and delivering training
- Training qualification
- Working knowledge of Parent and Baby Star