

**Social Work Practitioner, Senior**

**Job Specification & Terms and Conditions**

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| **Job Title, Grade Code** | **Social Work Practitioner, Senior***(*Grade Code: 3614*)* |
| **Campaign Reference** | To be completed by Recruiter. |
| **Closing Date** | To be completed by Recruiter. |
| **Proposed Interview Date (s)** | To be completed by Recruiter. |
| **Taking up Appointment** | A start date will be indicated at job offer stage. |
| **Location of Post** | Insert locationThere is currently xx permanent / specified purpose / part time / whole-time vacancy available in xxxxxxxxxxA panel may be formed as a result of this campaign for xxxxxxxxxxx from which current and future, permanent and specified purpose vacancies of full or part-time duration may be filled.  |
| **Informal Enquiries** | Please provide name & contact details for person who will deal with informal enquiries. |
| **Details of Service** | Provide details to the following types of questions:* What service does the unit provide?
* What client group is served by the unit?
* What are the possible future developments for the service?
* What is the team structure?
* What area is covered by this service?

There is no limit to the text that can be inserted here. Please use this section to highlight the service and generate interest in the service and job being recruited for |
| **Reporting Relationship** | Please outline reporting relationships associated with the post:* To whom will the job holder report?
* Who will report to the job holder?

For Example: The post holder’s professional reporting relationship for clinical governance and clinical supervision will be to the Head of Discipline through the professional line management structure. S/he will provide line management and supervision to staff and students as required. |
| **Key Working Relationships** | Provide a brief overview of the types of people that the job holder will typically engage with in the fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities of their role. This overview should provide the applicant with a sense for the key working relationships associated with the role. |
| **Purpose of the Post**  | What is the overall high-level purpose of the job? For Example: The post holder will have responsibility for contributing to the development and maintenance of high standards of professional practice in conjunction with the Principal Social Worker and Social Work Team Leader. This will be achieved through the implementation of an accessible, equitable, person-centred service.  |
| **Principal Duties and Responsibilities** | *The Social Work Practitioner, Senior will:***Professional / Clinical*** Deliver a quality service to service users ensuring professional standards are maintained in accordance with the requirements as set out by CORU <https://coru.ie/files-education/scwrb-standards-of-proficiency-for-social-care-workers.pdf>
* Ensure the delivery of social work services is in accordance with CORU’s Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for the Social Work profession, relevant legislation and HSE policies, procedures, guidelines and protocols.
* Work within current legislation, relevant policies and procedures, guidelines and protocols within the HSE.
* Work in accordance with the principles and values of recovery as described in the National Framework for Recovery for Irish Mental Health Services 2018-2020. [***Please include or delete this bullet where relevant***.]
* Incorporate Social Work values and ethical principles in planning, developing, implementing and reviewing interventions.
* Ensure the implementation of models of best practice / evidence based practice.
* Be responsible for the management of the day-to-day provision of social work services under the direction of the Principal Social Worker.
* Carry a caseload of complex cases requiring a high level of social work competency and specialist expert knowledge and share expertise with social work colleagues.
* Provide a direct point of access for the local community / designated service area and undertake initial and standardised psychosocial assessments and interventions to individuals, families and groups following the appropriate referral pathway.
* Identify service users’ individual and collective needs in partnership with them and co-create early interventions and/or social action strategies to meet those needs in conjunction with relevant others as required and appropriate.
* Provide supportive counselling, emotional and practical support, and information to service users and their families in a collaborative and consent led manner.
* Adopt a holistic approach aimed at enhancing the quality of life, health and social well-being of all persons within the designated service area.
* Promote independence, self-reliance, self-determination and empowerment with persons in their environment, with families and local groups.
* Work within a key worker / case worker system, providing a co-ordinating role for case management where appropriate.
* Make it possible for service users to advocate for their own needs, or where appropriate, advocate on behalf of service users.
* Plan and deliver individual, group, organisational and community based capacity building interventions. Build on the strengths and abilities of the individual / family / groups / community.
* Assess where social conditions are a major factor in health and social wellbeing, consult and plan with the service user, relevant team / service and arrange appropriate social services for those who need them.
* Deliver a quality social work service in collaboration with other disciplines / agencies as required, in appropriate settings reflecting the needs of the service user.
* Monitor and evaluate outcomes of person centred / care plans for individual service users.
* Promote anti-discriminatory practice and cultural competence.
* Initiate and promote new projects that are relevant to the needs of the department in conjunction with Line Management.
* Actively participate as a member of the team / service in team building and change management initiatives.
* Participate in special interest groups relevant to the area of work.
* Arrange and attend case conferences, meetings and other relevant fora as required.
* Attend court, tribunals etc. as required.
* Deputise for the Social Work Team Leader as agreed / appropriate.
* Keep the Team Leader fully informed and up-to-date on all significant matters.

**Education & Training*** Maintain standards of practice and levels of professional knowledge by participating in continuous professional development initiatives as appropriate and in meeting CORU expectations.
* Keep up to date with advances in Social Work research, and on-going review and evaluation of literature relevant to the assigned area.
* Engage in career and professional development planning in collaboration with the Social Work Team Leader / Principal Social Worker.
* Keep abreast of developments in national policies and strategies and international best practice.
* Keep up to date with organisational developments within the Irish Health Service.
* Develop links with the Schools of Social Work.
* Act as a resource by participating in the induction, education and training of Social Work colleagues, other health professionals and service user groups as required.
* Manage, participate and play a role in the practice education of student Social Workers. In collaboration with the Social work Team Leader and Principal Social Worker, contribute to the development, provision and implementation of mentoring and individualised training programmes for social worker staff. Provide a mentoring role to other workers as required/support colleagues in practice teaching as required.
* Actively disseminate specialist knowledge to existing social work staff, provide guidance and supervision to student social workers and relevant others.
* Foster an understanding of the role and contribution of social work by providing professional consultation and education to other members of the service.
* Take responsibility for the supervision and line management of staff as required.
* Be responsible for the probationary appraisal of staff and the completion of probationary appraisal reports as required. Make appropriate recommendations regarding whether employees’ standard of work during probation is satisfactory and whether appointments should be confirmed.
* Take an active role in professional clinical supervision and engage in reflective practice in accordance with CORU requirements and the local / national Supervision Policy.

**Health & Safety** * Comply with and contribute to the development of policies, procedures, guidelines and safe professional practice and adhere to relevant legislation, regulations and standards.
* Document appropriately and report any near misses, hazards and accidents and bring them to the attention of designated individual(s) in line with best practice.
* Work in a safe manner with due care and attention to the safety of self and others.
* Be aware of risk management issues, identify risks and take appropriate action.
* Comply with procedures with regard to assessment, recommendation and / or manufacturing of all assistive devices.
* Promote a culture that values diversity and respect.
* Have a working knowledge of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Standards as they apply to the role for example, Standards for Healthcare, National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, Hygiene Standards etc.and comply with associated HSE protocols for implementing and maintaining these standards as appropriate to the role.
* To support, promote and actively participate in sustainable energy, water and waste initiatives to create a more sustainable, low carbon and efficient health service.

**Administrative*** Maintain a high standard of documentation, including service user files in accordance with local guidelines, Freedom of Information (FOI) and GDPR Acts.
* Maintain accurate up to date records and files, and submit activity data as required.
* Write accurate, clear, concise and purposeful reports.
* Contribute to the development and implementation of information sharing protocols and audit systems.
* Contribute to policy development and research, audit and quality improvement, performance monitoring and budgetary control of the service, and service development, in collaboration with the Social Work Team Leader / Principal Social Worker.
* Assist in ensuring that the social work service makes the most efficient and effective use of developments in IT.
* Ensure compliance with and implement HR policies and procedures and guidelines.
* Contribute to a range of reports including annual reports, performance indicators, etc. as required.
* Contribute to service plan process by recognising and replicating successful interventions and by identifying unmet needs and service requirements into the future.

**The above Job Specification is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all duties involved and consequently, the post holder may be required to perform other duties as appropriate to the post which may be assigned to them from time to time and to contribute to the development of the post while in office.**  |
| **Eligibility Criteria****Qualifications and/ or experience** | **Candidates must have at the latest date of application:****Please insert Eligibility Criteria for the post - see HSE website at:** [**http://hse.ie/eng/staff/Jobs/Eligibility\_Criteria/**](http://hse.ie/eng/staff/Jobs/Eligibility_Criteria/)**Health**A candidate for and any person holding the office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service. **Character**Each candidate for and any person holding the office must be of good character. |
| **Post Specific Requirements** | **This section may be used to specify that candidates must demonstrate particular experience deemed necessary for safe and effective performance in the role****e.g.*** **depth and breadth of experience in providing a service to marginalised communities**
* **depth and breadth of experience of working in a High Dependency Unit in an Acute setting**
* **depth and breadth of experience of delivering concurrent, multiple projects.**

**Post specific requirements mostly relate to a specific role and might include education / experience required for a specific post in a specific location / may include specialisms e.g. ICU course or experience. We don’t include ‘Nice to have’ / ‘Desirable’ criteria – either a criterion is essential to the role or it isn't. Avoid including ‘numerical data’ here e.g. must have x no. of months / years’ experience in XXX. Instead it is more helpful to detail what it is you want the applicants to know / be able to do.** |
| **Other requirements specific to the post** | **Please outline if there are specific practical requirements that are specific to the post** **e.g.*** **have access to appropriate transport to fulfil the requirements of the role**
* **participate in an on-call rota**
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| **Skills, competencies and/or knowledge** | **Professional Knowledge & Experience** *For example:** Demonstrates sufficient professional knowledge to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the role safely and effectively within the legal, ethical and practice boundaries of the profession.
* Demonstrates knowledge of the various theoretical models, approaches and interventions that apply in current practice.
* Demonstrates a commitment to promoting and applying evidence based practice and research.
* Demonstrates a clear understanding of risk assessment.
* Demonstrates the ability to utilise supervision effectively and a commitment to continuous professional development.
* Demonstrates a willingness to engage with ICT and develop ICT skills relevant to the role.

**Planning and Managing Resources**  *For example:** Demonstrates the ability to effectively plan activities and co-ordinate resources to ensure value for money and maximum benefit for the organisation.
* Demonstrates the ability to manage self and others in a busy working environment including the ability to prioritise and effectively handle multiple tasks.
* Foresees potential problems or competing priorities and takes appropriate action to ensure service standards don’t suffer / deadlines are met.
* Demonstrates innovation in aiming to work within resource limitations to sustain and enhance the service, within a model of person-centred care.

**Team Skills** *For example:** Demonstrates effective team skills and the ability to work collaboratively with others.
* Demonstrates leadership potential and facilitates the development of others by providing support such as mentoring, coaching and development planning.
* Demonstrates a willingness to get involved and assist others as appropriate.
* Demonstrates the ability to react constructively to setbacks, is able to maintain professionalism and manage situations where conflict arises.

**Commitment to providing a Quality Service***For example:** Demonstrates a commitment to the delivery of a high quality, person centred service.
* Regularly monitors the quality of own work and that of others under supervision.
* Demonstrates initiative and innovation in identifying areas for service improvement.
* Demonstrates an ability to be flexible and embrace change.
* Display awareness and appreciation of the service user as expert through experience including promoting the involvement of the service user in care planning, decision-making and service development.

**Evaluating Information and Judging Situations** *For example:** Demonstrate the ability to critically analyse, evaluate information, and make effective decisions with regard to service user care.
* Demonstrates the ability to think ahead to the consequences of decisions and considers precedence to ensure consistency.
* Confidently explains the rationale behind decisions when faced with opposition or competing demands.
* Establishes integrity by ensuring that the professional, ethical and safety factors are fully considered in decisions into which they have input.

**Communications and Interpersonal Skills***For example:** Displays effective communication skills (verbal & written), tailoring the communication method and the message to match the needs of the audience.
* Demonstrates effective interpersonal skills, is sensitive to issues arising from multiple stakeholders, is patient and tolerant when dealing with conflict situations.
* Anticipates and recognises the emotional reactions of others when delivering sensitive messages.
* Demonstrates good negotiation skills, being assertive as required and treating others with dignity and respect.
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| **Campaign Specific Selection Process****Ranking/Shortlisting / Interview** | A ranking and or shortlisting exercise may be carried out on the basis of information supplied in your application form. The criteria for ranking and or shortlisting are based on the requirements of the post as outlined in the eligibility criteria and skills, competencies and/or knowledge section of this job specification. Therefore it is very important that you think about your experience in light of those requirements. Failure to include information regarding these requirements may result in you not being called forward to the next stage of the selection process. Those successful at the ranking stage of this process (where applied) will be placed on an order of merit and will be called to interview in ‘bands’ depending on the service needs of the organisation.The HSE is an equal opportunities employer. |
| **Code of Practice** | The Health Service Executive will run this campaign in compliance with the Code of Practice prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA). The CPSA is responsible for establishing the principles that should be followed when making an appointment. These are set out in the CPSA Code of Practice. The Code outlines the standards that should be adhered to at each stage of the selection process and sets out the review and appeal mechanisms open to candidates should they be unhappy with a selection process.The CPSA Code of Practice can be accessed via <https://www.cpsa.ie/>. |
| The reform programme outlined for the Health Services may impact on this role and as structures change the Job Specification may be reviewed.This Job Specification is a guide to the general range of duties assigned to the post holder. It is intended to be neither definitive nor restrictive and is subject to periodic review with the employee concerned. |

**Social Work Practitioner, Senior**

**Terms and Conditions of Employment**

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| **Tenure**  | The current vacancy available is **permanent/temporary** and **whole time/part-time.** The post is pensionable. A panel may be created from which permanent and specified purpose vacancies of full or part time duration may be filled. The tenure of these posts will be indicated at “expression of interest” stage. Appointment as an employee of the Health Service Executive is governed by the Health Act 2004 and the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Amendment Act 2013. |
| **Remuneration**  | The Salary scale for the post is: **PLEASE INSERT (Pro Rata - part-time)****PLEASE INSERT the most recent salary scales for the role and grade code.**New appointees to any grade start at the minimum point of the scale. Incremental credit will be applied for recognised relevant service in Ireland and abroad (Department of Health Circular 2/2011). Incremental credit is normally granted on appointment, in respect of previous experience in the Civil Service, Local Authorities, Health Service and other Public Service Bodies and Statutory Agencies. |
| **Working Week** | The standard working week applying to the post is to be confirmed at Job Offer stage. **Please include the following paragraph for posts that traditionally worked 9-5, Monday to Friday. Do not include for nursing and other posts that are required to work shifts over a 7-day week.**HSE Circular 003-2009 “Matching Working Patterns to Service Needs (Extended Working Day / Week Arrangements); Framework for Implementation of Clause 30.4 of Towards 2016” applies. Under the terms of this circular, all new entrants and staff appointed to promotional posts from Dec 16th, 2008 will be required to work agreed roster / on call arrangements as advised by their line manager. Contracted hours of work are liable to change between the hours of 8am-8pm over seven days to meet the requirements for extended day services in accordance with the terms of the Framework Agreement (Implementation of Clause 30.4 of Towards 2016). |
| **Annual Leave** | The annual leave associated with the post will be confirmed at Contracting stage. |
| **Superannuation** | This is a pensionable position with the HSE. The successful candidate will upon appointment become a member of the appropriate pension scheme. Pension scheme membership will be notified within the contract of employment. Members of pre-existing pension schemes who transferred to the HSE on the 01st January 2005 pursuant to Section 60 of the Health Act 2004 are entitled to superannuation benefit terms under the HSE Scheme which are no less favourable to those which they were entitled to at 31st December 2004 |
| **Age** | The Public Service Superannuation (Age of Retirement) Act, 2018\* set 70 years as the compulsory retirement age for public servants.***\* Public Servants not affected by this legislation:***Public servants joining the public service or re-joining the public service with a 26 week break in service, between 1 April 2004 and 31 December 2012 (new entrants) have no compulsory retirement age.Public servants, joining the public service or re-joining the public service after a 26 week break, after 1 January 2013 are members of the Single Pension Scheme and have a compulsory retirement age of 70. |
| **Probation** | Every appointment of a person who is not already a permanent officer of the Health Service Executive or of a Local Authority shall be subject to a probationary period of 12 months as stipulated in the Department of Health Circular No.10/71. |
| **Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998** | As this post is one of those designated under the Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, appointment to this post appoints one as a designated officer in accordance with Section 2 of the Act.  You will remain a designated officer for the duration of your appointment to your current post or for the duration of your appointment to such other post as is included in the categories specified in the Ministerial Direction. You will receive full information on your responsibilities under the Act on appointment. |
| **Mandated Person Children First Act 2015** | As a mandated person under the Children First Act 2015 you will have a legal obligation:* To report child protection concerns at or above a defined threshold to TUSLA.
* To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

You will remain a mandated person for the duration of your appointment to your current post or for the duration of your appointment to such other post as is included in the categories specified in the Ministerial Direction. You will receive full information on your responsibilities under the Act on appointment. |
| **Infection Control** | Have a working knowledge of Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Standards as they apply to the role for example, Standards for Healthcare, National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, Hygiene Standards etc. and comply with associated HSE protocols for implementing and maintaining these standards as appropriate to the role. |
| **Health & Safety** | It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that the management of safety, health and welfare is successfully integrated into all activities undertaken within their area of responsibility, so far as is reasonably practicable. Line managers are named and roles and responsibilities detailed in the relevant Site Specific Safety Statement (SSSS). Key responsibilities include:* Developing a SSSS for the department/service[[1]](#footnote-1), as applicable, based on the identification of hazards and the assessment of risks, and reviewing/updating same on a regular basis (at least annually) and in the event of any significant change in the work activity or place of work.
* Ensuring that Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is integrated into day-to-day business, providing Systems Of Work (SOW) that are planned, organised, performed, maintained, and revised as appropriate, and ensuring that all safety related records are maintained and available for inspection.
* Consulting and communicating with staff and safety representatives on OSH matters.
* Ensuring a training needs assessment (TNA) is undertaken for employees, facilitating their attendance at statutory OSH training, and ensuring records are maintained for each employee.
* Ensuring that all incidents occurring within the relevant department/service are appropriately managed and investigated in accordance with HSE procedures[[2]](#footnote-2).
* Seeking advice from health and safety professionals through the National Health and Safety Function Helpdesk as appropriate.
* Reviewing the health and safety performance of the ward/department/service and staff through, respectively, local audit and performance achievement meetings for example.

**Note**: Detailed roles and responsibilities of Line Managers are outlined in local SSSS.  |

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Helpful Reminders\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**1) Please remember to delete any prompts and / or tables (in dark blue) in the sections above**

**2) Ensure all fonts are now in black**

1. A template SSSS and guidelines are available on the National Health and Safety Function, here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/safetywellbeing/about%20us/>

2 See link on health and safety web-pages to latest Incident Management Policy [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)