

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Team Leader	Post Holder:	Vacant
Reports To:	Senior Disabilities and Young Persons Services Manager	Location:	NOVAS Head Office, 87 O'Connell St, Limerick
Salary:	This role is attached to a defined salary scale which ranges from €43,698 to €52,165 and appointments are made depending on experience.		

Purpose of the Job

The role of Team Leader is vital to the successful delivery of quality programmes and services in NOVAS for our clients. The Team Leader will support the delivery, oversight, and ongoing development of NOVAS Mid-West Disability Services. This includes **St. Patrick's Hill**, a home-like residential service for **three clients with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities who experience multiple disadvantages**, alongside a **community-based disability outreach service** supporting clients across **Limerick and Clare**.

The Team Leader will report to the Senior Disabilities and Young Persons Services Manager and will work collaboratively with the NOVAS Mid-West Disability Services team, wider NOVAS services, and key external partners. The Team Leader will work closely with service providers, local authorities, and local communities to ensure coordinated, responsive, and person-centred support.

The Team Leader is responsible for managing and supervising staff, maintaining a high standard of service delivery, and ensuring that supports are safe, effective, rights-based, and tailored to the needs and goals of each individual. The post holder will oversee both the residential and outreach dimensions of the service, ensuring that practice promotes advocacy, dignity, autonomy, health, wellbeing, and meaningful community inclusion.

The Team Leader will ensure the service is compliant with relevant legislation, regulations, national, organisational, and local policies and standards. They will ensure the effective day-to-day running of the project, that all aspects of health and safety are met, that the physical environment is maintained to a high standard, and that clients are actively consulted and involved in the operation and development of the service to the greatest practical extent.

The Team Leader will also contribute to the future development of the service, including identifying opportunities to strengthen and expand provision in response to emerging need, learning, and strategic priorities within the Mid-West region.

The Team Leader will be part of the NOVAS on call rota, carry out administrative and financial procedures in accordance with NOVAS policies and procedures, and prepare reports, statistics, and other information as required.

Environment of the Job

NOVAS is a not-for-profit organisation and Approved Housing Body, we work with single adults, couples, and families, and who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. We also provide a service for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum. We support adults with disabilities and complex needs. We provide a range of services and accommodation. Our first service was established in Limerick in 2002 which was a temporary low-threshold emergency homeless accommodation and we have grown from there. We now have over 300 staff, and more than 30 services in Limerick, Dublin, Clare, Mid-West, Cork, and Tipperary including emergency homeless accommodation, transitional homeless accommodation, social housing and community-based services for tenancy sustainment, homelessness prevention, mental health and recovery.

NOVAS is a Trauma Informed Practice Organisation, and the principles of collaboration, diversity, respect, and trust are embedded in our way of working together.

Our services are provided through support of our partners in local government through the Local Authorities, HSE, and other donors and funders.

Delegation and Reporting

The Team Leader has decision-making remit for the areas of identifying appropriate housing and support needs in collaboration clients and colleagues within the staff team, Senior Disabilities and Young Persons Services Manager, and the relevant Senior Residential Services Manager. In the absence of the Project Manager, or at times, the Team Leader may be required to consult with, and take direction from Head of Operations or the CEO.

Oversight for the work in this role is provided by the Quality Services Sub Committee of the NOVAS Board of Directors.

The Team Leader will at all times, operate in a professional and respectful manner, maintaining high quality standards of work in accordance with the values and mission of NOVAS. Their decision making will at all times be informed by the best interests of the clients and ensuring cost effective value for money, use of donations and public money.

Challenges

The nature of our work involves supporting the most vulnerable people who often have complex needs and may be survivors of trauma. As a result, during your work you may engage with sensitive and confidential matters that require empathy, compassion, and pragmatism. You may also encounter clients or tenants who are in distress, displaying challenging behaviours or struggling to moderate their behaviour. Patience, respect, and an ability to remain professional and focused on deescalating is essential. Further training will be provided in Trauma Informed Practice or Crisis Prevention.

As an organisation that is largely funded by public money, effective use of resources is a continuous focus and challenge.

Key Accountabilities

Accountability	Achieved by
Client Care and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure assessment of individual clients needs and develop and deliver appropriate support and care management programmes in conjunction with other voluntary and statutory services. • Ensure regular reviews of client supports. • To approach clients at all times with dignity and respect and ensure they are provided with choices around the services they receive. • To support clients in line Trauma Informed Practice and harm reduction principles.

- Ensure provision of practical services to the client, including welfare, benefits and housing advice, budget and debt management and life skills.
- Ensure provision of client supports in areas including health, hygiene, safety, general welfare, including personal care assistance where required.
- Ensure service is maintained to a high standard including cleaning and preparing client rooms, communal areas, and workstations.
- Ensure clients are assisted in gaining access to a range of community resources to enable them to increase confidence, socialisation, independent living and problem-solving skills.
- Ensure clients are assisted in maximising their tenancy sustainment skills, using specialist programmes and self-development skills.
- To be aware of child protection issues and correct reporting procedures.
- To adhere to all policies and procedures, particularly in relation to child protection, safeguarding vulnerable adults, confidentiality, finance, personal safety, and customer care.
- To promote client participation by providing information, advice, and choices to enable individuals to participate fully in daily decisions relating to them.
- To assist clients in providing feedback on services through meetings, the complaints procedures, suggestions, and use of questionnaires.
- To be always accessible and responsive to clients' questions, concerns and requests for information.
- To ensure accurate, up to date, factual client records via the NOVAS and funders recording platforms. (Salesforce & PASS)
- To assist clients in gaining access to their personal files in accordance with procedures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote and implement the principles of customer care.
Staff Management, Support and Appraisal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular supervision or one-to-one sessions to the staff team. Provide regular feedback, performance appraisal and supports to the staff team. Ensure regular and effective Team Meetings for both the day and night teams. To support staff in line Trauma Informed Practice and promote NOVAS EAP and work positive initiatives. Ensure the staff team is up to date with all required training. Keep all staff HR records accurate and up to date on NOVAS HR recording systems and staff returns are completed in a timely manner. Ensure staff rotas are fair, meet the needs of NOVAS services and are communicated to staff in a timely manner. Ensure annual leave and other leave is managed effectively and in line with NOVAS Policy and employment legislation. Be part of the NOVAS on-call rota. Be part of NOVAS recruitment processes including interview panels for services in other regions.
Financial Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be aware of and adhere to all relevant financial procedures and regulations of the organisation and to report any discrepancies either on the part of the post-holder or others to your manager immediately.
Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the work of NOVAS to other organisations. To attend internal and external meetings where appropriate and as requested. To be accountable for your workload and movements to both your line manager and the appropriate senior managers.

<p>Supervision, Support & Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging in regular supervision or one-to-one sessions with your line manager. • Working under the direction of and in collaboration with your line manager and the wider management team. • Working to help the organisation achieve the aims and objectives of the strategic plan in line with our values and mission. • Participating in team meetings. • Familiarity and compliance with all relevant policies and standards. • Participation in relevant and required training events.
<p>Health & Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention to your own and that of the clients and staff health & safety in the workplace. • Vigilance of health & safety hazards and timely reporting of same to your line manager and or safety representative. • Managing and reporting incidents and accidents in accordance with policies and procedures. • Ensuring all Fire Safety Checks are carried out in line with policies, procedures, and daily tasks. Reporting any issues immediately to the Project Manager. • Carrying out Health and Wellbeing checks on clients where required and follow up on any support needs. • Ability to recognise and administer basic First Aid to clients as required. Required Training will be provided. • Adhere to all the principals of manual handling. • Ensuring that the service is safe, reporting any security issues to the Project Manager/Gardaí as required. • Adherence to all infection prevention control measures and compliance to all guidance in relation to IPC • Ensure all Health & Safety records are accurate and up to date. • Engage with service Health & Safety audits and action recommendations in a timely manner.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carry out risk assessments and implement risk mitigation measures.
Information Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure data and personal information relating to clients, tenants, staff, and other members of the organisation is kept safe and secure using the correct systems and procedures, is collected for legitimate purposes, and is safely destroyed when appropriate.

Person Specification

Essential Criteria

Documentary evidence of qualifications and eligibility will be confirmed at the end of any recruitment process, candidates who do not possess the essential requirements, on the date of application will not be offered a position. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they meet the essential criteria of the person specification.

The appropriate candidate will have:

- Professional Qualification in Social Care or related allied health professions, minimum level 7 (full major award) or eligibility to register with CORU as a Social Care Worker.
- Three years' experience in working with people who are homeless or other social care groups.
- Strong administration skills for record keeping and report writing and computer literacy.
- Ability to provide services that foster and enhance the dignity, development, and independence of the individual.
- Have an understanding of care and case management protocols including care planning, needs assessment, risk management/assessment, incident management/prevention and key working.
- Ability to communicate effectively with a wide variety of people.
- Understanding of the needs of vulnerable people who are homeless, with focus on the specific needs of people with multiple disadvantages.
- Knowledge of and a commitment to equal opportunities.
- Full driver's licence and use of own car.
- Garda Vetting will be sought for this role.

Desirable Criteria

It would be an advantage for the candidate to have:

- Experience working on own initiative, lone working, managing one's own caseload and time management.
- Staff management and/or service management experience.
- Experience and knowledge of working in two or more of the following areas: Homeless sector, Tenancy Sustainment, Family Support, Residential Care, Mental Health, Challenging Behaviour, Substance Misuse, Community Engagement, Disability Support.
- Knowledge of statutory and voluntary social care services and systems, including HIQA standards.
- Experience and knowledge in child protection, adult safeguarding, and associated legislation and guidelines.
- Experience of working in, or a strong interest in the charity or not-for-profit.

NOVAS Employment Benefits

NOVAS is committed to attracting and retaining the best talent in service of our clients and tenants and values the hard work and commitment of our staff.

Detailed below are a range of benefits you receive as a NOVAS employee.

Support & Supervision	Every employee will have regular planned one-to-one meetings with their line manager as well as Team Meetings and Monthly All Staff Town Hall meetings in order to ensure you are connected to and supported by your colleagues and the organisation.
Learning & Development	NOVAS will fully fund a wide range of training programmes required role specific including First Aid, Fire Safety, Manual Handling, Trauma Informed Practice.
Career Progression	NOVAS believes in supporting the development and career path for our staff and develop skills for role changes, Leadership Preparation and Management Development.
Salary Scales	NOVAS has defined salary scales and has committed to awarding annual increments to staff depending on sustained funding.
Annual Leave	26 Days annual leave plus bank holidays.
Pension	A direct contribution pension with a 5% employer and employee contribution totalling 10%.
Employee Assistance Programme	Our Employee Assistance Programme provided by Inspire Wellbeing gives staff access to free confidential counselling and a suite of online mental health and wellness tools.
Further Education Support	With the help of your line manager you can apply for financial support, study leave, or exam leave days to complete external professional qualifications to help further your career.
Sick Pay	2 Weeks full and 2 weeks half sick pay certified.
Maternity Leave	18 weeks full pay which can be pro rata across duration.