



## **Resource Officer Alcohol Related Brain Injury: Job Description**

**Position:** Resource Officer Alcohol Related Brain Injury  
**Location:** Letterkenny  
**Responsible to:** CEO  
**Salary:** €33,000- €48,000 P/A

### **About Us:**

Alcohol Forum Ireland is a national charity that provides support, information and services to individuals, families and communities impacted by alcohol and other drug harm, while also working at the wider levels to change Ireland's problematic relationship with alcohol. We believe real change will only happen by working with communities to address the causes of substance misuse harm in Ireland. Our approach is shaped by evidence and is informed by the expressed needs of the people and communities we work with across Ireland. We work in partnership with statutory, voluntary and community partners to deliver our services

### **Alcohol Related Brain Injury (ARBI)**

ARBI is a term used to describe a spectrum of neurological, neuropsychiatric and neuropsychological disorders that result from excessive alcohol misuse and a combination of factors associated with this pattern of drinking. The clinical presentations of ARBI are variable, but usually involve long lasting structural and functional brain changes with resulting impairments in memory, attention, planning and problem solving. These can compromise a person's ability to live independently and diminish their capacity to overcome problems with alcohol. It is also associated with a number of cascading harms for the affected individual, their families and a revolving door of admissions within Irish services. Despite the growing numbers of people affected by this condition, professional and public awareness of the disorder remains low. The poor identification rate associated with this syndrome, and a lack of specific service responses, leads to repeated (and increasingly extended) acute hospital use, progressive deterioration, reduced prognosis and rising morbidity

For more information on our work, visit our website:

[www.alcoholforum.org](http://www.alcoholforum.org)

**The Role:**

The ARBI Resource officer role is to support the rehabilitation of people with ARBI and to deliver community services to people with Alcohol Related Brain Injury, their family, and carers, health professionals and the wider community. The post holder will promote the values and principles of Alcohol Forum Ireland.

**Primary Duties.**

- To provide a client support service focused on Rehabilitation from Alcohol Related Brain Injury.
- To provide appropriate information and support services to people with ARBI, family members, carers and health professionals.
- To provide advocacy and case management approaches where a service user is unable to advocate for themselves.
- Deliver a service focused on the individual needs of ARBI clients and make appropriate referrals to other services.
- Develop new and existing relationships and build alliances with community organisations, policy makers, national/international networks, and stakeholders to advance the development of ARBI services locally, regionally and nationally.
- Identify and contribute to key service developments in ARBI through effective collaborative working with relevant alcohol related agencies and service providers.
- Identify opportunities to work within a cross-sectoral approach on issues to advance the rights of people and their families living with or vulnerable to ARBI.
- Engage in consensus building with organisations, agencies, and stakeholders on issues of strategic concern regarding ARBI.
- Develop proposals, briefs, and presentations to support the development of funding partnerships and collaborative projects.
- Represent AFI on national and regional forums on ARBI.
- Build relationships & work formally with service providers and local community stakeholders to support families & children impacted by ARBI.
- Support and work with others to develop all aspects of Family Support services throughout Donegal for families impacted by ARBI.
- Promote and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults who access support.
- Work as part of an integrated network of professionals supporting families affected by substance misuse.
- Promote understanding of alcohol harm and its impacts, across communities, workplaces and in the statutory, voluntary and community agencies and organisations providing supports and services.
- Provide training programmes on the impact of Alcohol on the Brain.
- To comply with Alcohol Forum's Child Protection and Welfare Policy.
- To demonstrate a commitment to the work of Alcohol Forum Ireland and represent the charity in a professional manner.

These duties are a guide to the general range of responsibilities and are neither definitive nor restrictive. The post-holder may from time to time have to undertake a reasonable request as directed by the CEO in furtherance of the mission and strategic objectives of the charity.

**Personal Specification.**

The ideal candidate will possess all or most of the following criteria:

## **Essential**

- Education: Degree(Level 8) qualification in a relevant discipline, (eg Nursing, disability, Social Care, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Public Health, Education, Psychology, or relevant discipline.
- A minimum of 2 years' experience working in a similar or relevant area.
- Knowledge of the alcohol policy context in Ireland.
- Understanding of evidence-based interventions and outcome measures to reflect impact of the work
- Be familiar with legislative developments in relation to reducing the social, health and economic harm and inequality caused by alcohol.
- Excellent communicator who can articulate the needs of ARBI clients and their families to a wide range of stakeholders.
- Excellent networking skills and demonstratable ability to persuasively influence a wide range of stakeholders.
- Highly self-motivated, creative and determined with the ability to take initiative and problem solve effectively.
- Have excellent computer literacy.
- Flexible and able to adapt quickly as situations develop and change.
- A high level of organisational skills and project management capability with the ability to prioritise and manage own workload.
- Full and clean driver's license and use of own car

## **Desirable**

- Passionate about the work and mission of Alcohol Forum Ireland and a knowledge of the services and research it develops
- Experience of human rights, equality and inclusion issues as they affect people who experience disadvantage.
- Experience of developing and sharing learning opportunities and resources with relevant stakeholders, organisations and agencies to change practice and behavior.