



**Safe
Families**



**Home
for Good**



**CHURCH AND COMMUNITY
RELATIONSHIP COORDINATOR
(BELFAST AND WIDER
NORTHERN IRELAND)**

INFORMATION PACK

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Monday 10 November

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Church and Community Relationship Coordinator (Belfast and Wider NI) post. This information pack outlines the role and provides information about Safe Families and Home for Good.

SEEING CHILDREN & FAMILIES FLOURISH

At Safe Families and Home for Good, we have a vision rooted in hospitality, justice, belonging and collaboration. **Together, we hope for a society where no family feels alone, and every child has a home where they can flourish. We believe the Church is central to this vision.** Through our family support programme, we connect volunteers from local churches and communities with families who are isolated and overwhelmed. These volunteers offer friendship, practical help, and a listening ear – building relationships that restore dignity, reduce pressure, and help families stay together. It's grass-roots, relational, deeply personal and all about creating communities of true welcome and belonging.

At the same time, we walk alongside those exploring fostering, adoption, or supported lodgings - offering guidance, support, connection and advocacy. We want to see more people open their homes to children in care, and more churches equipped to wrap around those who do. Because, when children sadly do need to come into care, they deserve to be welcomed into homes and communities that are safe, stable and full of love.

Alongside delivering practical support, we're committed to systemic change. We take a hopeful, innovative approach, not just calling for change but demonstrating how it can be achieved. By amplifying the voices of children, young people, and families with lived experience we seek to bring transformation to the structures that can lead to families being isolated and children without support. And by



sharing the expertise and knowledge of our teams on the ground through training, courses and resources we ensure all are able to play their part in change.

We believe that deep and lasting transformation can only occur when we collaborate with others and so, through partnering with and equipping local authorities, policymakers, and faith communities, we reimagine what true care and community can look like.

Join us, together we can create a society where no family feels alone, and every child has a home where they can flourish.

Kat Osborn and Tania Bright
Co-CEOs



Our deep-rooted Christian faith is the foundation of our values, so we act with:

HOPE

We believe that change is always possible.

We sit with one another in the messiness of life, holding firmly to an attitude of hopefulness.



COURAGE

We champion justice and advocate for change.

We step into challenging spaces, have difficult conversations, and remain steadfast in uncertainty.



INTEGRITY

We do what we say we will.

We build authentic, transparent, and enduring relationships.



COMPASSION

We love the one in front of us with generosity, dignity and grace.

We seek to ensure everyone is seen, heard, and valued.



TOGETHERNESS

We intentionally choose to work alongside others.

We seek to partner, collaborate, and empower.



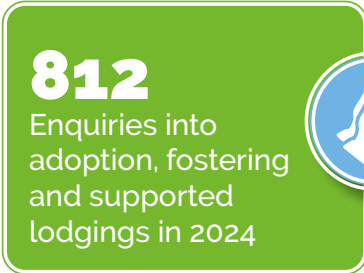
NORTHERN IRELAND

Our work in Northern Ireland began in 2014, with an initial focus on inspiring churches and individuals to play their parts in fostering and adoption. We've worked with all five Health and Social Care Trusts to find and support homes for children who need them. We currently partner with the Southern Trust (since 2020) and Northern Trust (since 2024) in this work.

In 2021, we introduced our family support model in Northern Ireland and we currently seek to support 150 families per year across the Northern and Belfast Trusts.

Our team of ten works across four key areas: family support, church relationships, engagement and journeying. It's a fun, friendly and tight-knit team that are each deeply committed to serving children, families and churches across Northern Ireland.

ROGER COOKE
Regional Director



Figures accurate as of 1st October 2025





TAM'S STORY

Tam had 2 young children when she needed to move into temporary accommodation for and her children's safety. She grew up in care and had no support network but desperately wanted to do the best for her children.

Safe Families were able to put 5 volunteers from 2 local churches around Tam and over a period of 18 months. They all played different roles in helping her gain the confidence she needed to start to thrive.

Peter and Vivienne would help look after the children and became like the grandparents they never had.

Ray and Sue helped Tam find a home and taught her how to look after the garden - they even built a shed together.

Mary would grab shopping for Tam and be someone she could speak to when she needed to connect.

Tam said "They were so supportive. I couldn't ask for more. When you are in a bad place they help make it positive. So you're not on your own."

WATCH TAM'S STORY

Scan the QR code or visit safefamilies.uk/tams-story



WHEN VOLUNTEERING OPENS NEW DOORS: ANNABEL'S STORY



Annabel and her husband Justin always hoped for a larger family. Their two sons brought them joy, but the feeling that someone was missing lingered, reinforced one day when her youngest said, 'Mummy, I always feel like someone is missing.'

That moment stayed with her. When friends at church shared their fostering experiences and gave them the Home for Good book, Annabel began to wonder if it could be right for them too.

A presentation at her church from Safe Families gave her a way to explore that possibility without committing straight away. After chatting with the team, her family began volunteering.

They were matched with a mum who had two children. For over a year, Annabel's family cared for the baby every other weekend so his mum could rest and spend time with her older daughter. Her sons embraced it, and Annabel built a strong connection with the mum, staying in touch long after formal support ended.

That experience gave them the confidence to take the next step. Annabel and Justin contacted Home for Good and were supported as they trained and became short-term foster carers for babies and toddlers. It suited their family well, and even brought out a nurturing side in their youngest son they hadn't seen before.

'Once we started foster caring,' shared Annabel, 'Home for Good employed their first worker in Wales where we were based. He was such a support to us.'

He helped them connect with a local network of foster carers and adopters, offering encouragement and shared understanding that made a real difference.

After fostering four children, the time came to step back. The experience had left a lasting mark. Annabel is now training as a social worker and continues to speak up for children in care as a Home for Good Church Champion.

ROLE OVERVIEW

The Church and Community Relationship Coordinator is a role focused on inspiring, resourcing and activating individuals and churches to understand the biblical mandate to care for children and families. You will inspire them to respond and play their part in the solution.

The role will focus on growing relationships with Church leaders, networks and individual Christians. The role of the Church and Community Relationship Coordinator is to stir, resource and activate the Church as we work together to provide a holistic solution which prevents children from entering the care system, and increases the number of safe and nurturing homes through fostering, adoption and supported lodgings. The role also includes the recruitment and nurture of a team of volunteer Church Champions across your area who will enable us to maximize our vision and multiply our impact.

You will work as part of the Church and Community Relationships Team who are located across Northern Ireland. Your work will primarily focus on the Greater Belfast area, including Belfast city, South Antrim, North Down and the Lagan Valley to Lisburn. You will need to be able to easily travel and work across this area in addition to occasional travel more widely across Northern Ireland.

The role requires experience of working with children, families or other vulnerable groups, and knowledge and application of safeguarding principles and processes. It is an incredibly exciting role where you would have the privilege of seeing how the simplest of actions, often from dedicated volunteers, really can bring hope and transformation to families and care leavers.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

JOB TITLE

Church and Community Relationship Coordinator
(Belfast and Wider Northern Ireland)

SALARY

£24,570 - £29,315

LOCATION

Working from home with travel to monthly team meetings and to occasional, in-person meetings with line manager or colleagues.

HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT

36 days annual leave allowance (inclusive of bank holidays and Christmas closure), option to purchase additional leave and extra days added to your allowance with length of service. Pro-rated for part time staff.

CONTRACT TYPE

This is a permanent contract. Subject to continued partnership funding.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

After three months automatic enrolment into a generous salary sacrifice scheme with Aegon Retirement Choices. YuLife (life insurance) and access to the employee assistance programme.

HOURS OF WORK

Part time 0.8 FTE (will consider full-time)

PERIOD OF NOTICE

4 weeks notice by either party, following a successful probation period.

START DATE

December 2025

REPORTS TO

Head of Engagement and Church Relationships

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

ENGAGING WITH CHURCHES

1. Build and maintain purposeful relationships with new and existing partner churches, church leaders and local Christian networks.
2. Activate and inspire churches and volunteers to serve the local community by introducing churches to the work of Safe Families and Home for Good.
3. Journey churches in a culturally and theologically sensitive manner towards deeper engagement and impact.
4. Affect church culture to bring about sustainable long-term change, through resources and programmes available through Home for Good, Safe Families and partner organisations.
5. Deliver compelling presentations about the vision and work of Home for Good and Safe Families and deliver related sermons and talks.
6. Encourage individuals and churches to support Home for Good and Safe Families by becoming prayer partners and financial supporters.
7. Inspire, nurture and equip Champions within local churches to share and support our vision in their local area.
8. Collaborate with Senior Leaders and the Business Support team to report the impact of your activity in order to ensure referred families are supported and people are inspired to provide homes for children who need them.
9. Take an active role in outworking the church fundraising strategy in the area and promoting giving to the work of Safe Families and Home for Good.

ENGAGING WITH INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS

10. Inspire people to consider opening their homes through fostering, adoption and supported lodgings for teenagers.
11. Recruitment of Family Support Volunteers to ensure local families continue to be supported.
12. Work closely with the Engagement and Support Team to ensure interested individuals are successfully welcomed and begin their journey with the organisation.
13. Responsible for recruiting and offering ongoing support to local Church Champions as you co-create a strategic plan with them to engage their church and/or local community.
14. Carry responsibility for the development of a network of Peer Support Groups for foster carers, kinship carers, adoptive parents and supported lodgings hosts, especially within engaged churches.
15. Working collaboratively with the Engagement and Support Team and Family Support Team to identify key areas for recruitment to meet local needs.

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

ENGAGING THROUGH EVENTS

1. Plan and support events in the region, in person and online, which inform, inspire and equip people to play their part in supporting families and providing homes for children.
2. Support the Engagement and Support Team to host and facilitate volunteer events to celebrate, share stories and engage local supporters.
3. Seeking engagement opportunities through attendance at regional and national festivals and events to increase our reach and impact.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

4. Encourage and model unity across different teams within the merged organisation
5. Participation in the wider team life of Safe Families and Home for Good, which will include occasional out of hours events such as volunteer evenings and training days, staff conference away days and providing cover for an on-call rota.
6. Personal involvement in the delivery of our Core Volunteer Training. NB. While training delivery is mandatory, the regularity of your involvement will be agreed in consultation with you and in light of team capacity and need. This will be reviewed approximately every 12-18 months.
7. Contribute towards fundraising for the work of Safe Families and Home for Good. This could include engaging in finding monthly Financial Supporters, participating in sponsored events and helping the organisation connect with local businesses.
8. Track and evidence your activity through our systems and database to ensure church, volunteer and enquirer information is accurately entered onto the database and updated regularly.
9. Support the wider business needs of the organisation through additional activities as needed.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

| | Essential | Desirable |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Experience of building relationships and partnerships with individuals and churches from a variety of diverse backgrounds | X | |
| Able to provide compelling presentations and communicate in an engaging way with people in a variety of contexts. | X | |
| Experience of managing and leading teams of volunteers in either a church, voluntary or professional setting | X | |
| A good understanding of the Church landscape within the area, including a wide understanding of different denominations and diverse traditions | X | |
| Self- starter and able to work independently, display initiative and bring creative solutions to challenging situations with high levels of responsibility. | X | |
| Able to work well in a team and support and help others as needed. | X | |
| Able to produce strong written communications | X | |
| Able to work to targets and deadlines and reflect on own practice to ensure high quality of service | X | |
| Competence in using a range of Information Technology including Microsoft Office and a database | X | |
| Able to travel across hub area, especially priority areas, as outlined in role overview. | X | |
| Able to work weekends and evenings when required (arranged in advance) . | X | |
| An awareness of fostering, adoption and supported lodgings and the challenges facing isolated families | X | |
| Experience of walking alongside and supporting individuals or families who have experienced challenge, difficulty and trauma | | X |
| Lived experience of fostering, adoption or hosting of young people either personally, professionally or in relation to others | | X |

PERSON SPECIFICATION

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Educated to degree level | | X |
| Good prior knowledge and experience of Safeguarding with the ability to support others if they have to share concerns or deal with disclosures | | X |

CHARACTER

| | Essential | Desirable |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| A clear commitment to the Christian Faith and love for the Church | X | |
| Love for the poor and marginalised | X | |
| Passionate for the vision of Safe Families and Home for Good and the role of the Church in this. | X | |
| Teachability and humility, ready to receive coaching and feedback particularly from your line manager. | X | |
| Emotionally intelligent, honest, supportive, approachable, and encouraging. | X | |

FURTHER NOTES

EQUALITY

Safe Families and Home for Good actively encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic background candidates.

SAFEGUARDING

Completion of the recruitment process will involve the candidate being screened through an Enhanced DBS check. A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position. A copy of our Rehabilitation of Offenders policy statement is available on request from **recruitment@safefamilies.uk**

If applying for a role in Northern Ireland, the application to AccessNI is governed by the AccessNI Code of practice which can be found **here**.

OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENT

This post has been identified as having an "occupational requirement" under Schedule 9, Part 1, paragraph 1 and 3 of the Equality Act 2010 where it is a requirement that this post be filled by a Christian (currently active and committed to the Christian faith). All candidates must evidence they support the vision and values of the organisation.

APPLICATIONS

To apply please complete the application form via our website prior to the closing date - Monday 10 November
safefamilies.uk/vacancies

If you would like to discuss this role further please contact **Rebecca Parnell** on **07717196042** or **rebeccaparnell@safefamilies.uk** or email **recruitment@safefamilies.uk**

or email **recruitment@safefamilies.uk**

APPLY NOW



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homeforgood.org.uk

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