

**Youth Work Ireland
North Connaught**



**Child Safeguarding
Statement**

January 2018

About our Organisation

Name: Youth Work Ireland North Connaught

Location:

- Rockwood Parade, Sligo
- Hill Road, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
- Millview Crescent Community Centre, Ballina, Co. Mayo
- First Floor Office, Spencer Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
- Drumkeerin Youth Café, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim

Number of Staff:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| ▪ Rockwood Parade | 15 |
| ▪ Hill Road, Drumshanbo | 8 |
| ▪ Millview Crescent, Ballina | 5 |
| ▪ Spencer Street, Castlebar | 2 |
| ▪ Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim | 1 |

Services Provided

1. Support/Advice to youth clubs in Counties Sligo, Leitrim & Mayo.
2. Garda Youth Diversion Projects – Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo. Centre Based and Outreach Service provided.
3. Personal Youth Development Programme – Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim, Centre Based and Outreach Service.
4. Comhairle na nÓg, Drumshanbo Co. Leitrim Centre Based and Outreach Service.
5. SMILY LGBT Project – Sligo Centre Based and Outreach.
6. Community Employment Project – Sligo / Leitrim.
7. Youth Information Provision and Centre Based and Outreach.
8. Disadvantaged Youth Projects.
 - Ballina, Co. Mayo – Centre Based and Outreach.
 - Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim – Centre Based and Outreach.

Contact with Youth People / Families

1. Youth Clubs.

Provision of group activities, junior leadership training, seminars, conferences, music activities. Families in event of incident(s) permissions.

2. Garda Diversion Projects.

Provision of individual and group activities, home visits, meeting with parents and family members, other agencies.

3. Personal Youth Development Programme.

Individual / group activities. Home visits, meeting with parents / family members, other agencies.

4. Comhairle na nÓg

Individual group activities, seminars and conferences, parental consent.

5. SMILY LGBT

Individual group activities, interaction with families, conferences, seminars, parades.

6. Community Employment

Centre based advice services.

7. Youth Information

Centre based individual youth employability, conferences, seminars, training centres, schools, occasional parental consent.

8. Disadvantaged Youth Projects:

Centre based individual, group activities, seminars, conferences, training events. Family visits, consent forms, other agencies.

Service Users

Age Groups

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 7 – 18 years | Youth Clubs |
| 10 – 18 years | Garda Diversion Projects |
| 10 – 25 years | Special Projects for Youth |
| 14 – 25 years | LGBT |
| 14 – 25 years | Personal Youth Development Programme |
| 10 – 25 years | Youth Information / Community Employment |
| 12 – 18 years | Comhairle na nÓg |

Level of Ability

- 7 – 25 age group worked with.
- Mixed levels of ability presented.
- Individual care needs apply to only a very small number of service users.

Complicating Factors

- Referrals from state agencies with single or multiple factors.
- Poor parenting skills, mental health issues, acceptance of inappropriate behaviour.
- Substance misuse, active sexual activity, criminal activity, victims of deprivation/abuse/violence.
- Alienation from others/authority/institutions.

Challenges

- Establishing and maintaining trust/confidence
- Promoting positive parenting, challenging anti-social attitudes.
- Lack of state services, rural isolation, intimidation, culture, peer pressure.

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of Services being provided:

- Youth club support/advice
- Garda Youth Diversion Projects
- Personal Youth Development Programme
- Comhairle na nÓg
- LGBT Project
- Community Employment Project
- Youth Information Provision
- Disadvantaged Youth Projects

2. Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Youth Work Ireland North Connaught can provide a secure environment that enables children to share their concerns. It is important that a child who discloses abuse feels supported and facilitated in what for him or her may be a frightening and traumatic process. He or she may feel perplexed, afraid, angry, despondent and guilty. It is important that any negative feelings that the child may have are not increased by the kind of response that the disclosure elicits. A child who divulges abuse to an employee/volunteer makes a profound act of trust and should be treated with respect, sensitivity and care.

Youth Work Ireland North Connaught is fully committed to safeguarding children at all times.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Youth Work Ireland North Connaught defines risk as per Section 11 (i)(a) of Children First Act 2015 defines risk as *“any potential harm to a child while availing of the service.”*

Section 2 of the act defines harm as follows:

“harm means in relation to a child –

(a) assault, ill treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare or

(b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstances or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.”

| Potential Risks | Procedures in place to manage Risk Identified |
|--|---|
| <i>Lack of Record Keeping</i> | <i>Parental consent, medical records, referral procedures, attendance records, accident/incident book, contact details.</i> |
| <i>Premises</i> | <i>Health & Safety Statement, First Aid facilities, Fire precautions, adequate supervision.</i> |
| <i>Adult / Child Ratio</i> | <i>Adult to child ratio, safety/ability of children and nature of activities being undertaken under constant review.</i> |
| <i>Avoid being on your own with a child</i> | <i>Strict Adherence to child - adult ratio.</i> |
| <i>Ensuring sufficient supervision</i> | <i>Adherence to risk assessment for group activities</i> |
| <i>Dealing with challenging/disruptive behaviour</i> | <i>Adherence to behaviour management policy.</i> |
| <i>Lack of Codes of Behaviour</i> | <i>Adherence to Code of Behaviour / Guidance in Child Protection Policy 3.4, 3.5.</i> |
| <i>Lack of knowledge of Children First 2017</i> | <i>Designated Liaison Person, Mandated Persons, Relevant Person.</i> |
| <i>Not Garda Vetted</i> | <i>Requirement for all involved in Youth Work Ireland North Connaught to be Garda vetted.</i> |
| <i>No Child Protection Training</i> | <i>Requirement for all involved in Youth Work Ireland North Connaught to receive child protection training</i> |

4. Procedures


Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in January 2019, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  _____
(Provider)

[Provider's name and contact details]

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For queries, please contact Pat Forde
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015