

Child Safeguarding Statement

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Name of Services being provided:

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

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.

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
Lack of Record Keeping	Parental consent, medical records, referral procedures, attendance records, accident/incident book, contact details.
Premises	Health & Safety Statement, First Aid facilities, Fire precautions, adequate supervision.
Adult / Child Ratio	Adult to child ratio, safety/ability of children and nature of activities being undertaken under constant review.
Avoid being on your own with a child	Strict Adherence to child - adult ratio.
Ensuring sufficient supervision	Adherence to risk assessment for group activities
Dealing with challenging/disruptive behaviour	Adherence to behaviour management policy.
Lack of Codes of Behaviour	Adherence to Code of Behaviour / Guidance in Child Protection Policy 3.4, 3.5.
Lack of knowledge of Children First 2017	Designated Liaison Person, Mandated Persons, Relevant Person.
Not Garda Vetted	Requirement for all involved in Youth Work Ireland North Connaught to be Garda vetted.
No Child Protection Training	Requirement for all involved in Youth Work Ireland North Connaught to receive child protection training
Inappropriate use of Technology	Adherence to Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children /Use of Technology Policy Guidance Sheet 2.

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
- Procedure for the safe use of technology.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

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 March 2023, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 
(Provider / Chief Executive Officer)

Signed: 
(Chairperson)

Date: February 2023

Provider’s name and contact details:

Pat Forde, Chief Executive Officer, Youth Work Ireland North Connaught, Rockwood Parade, Sligo Tel. 071 9144150 Email: patforde@ncyys.ie

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