

# 1 SERVICE BEING PROVIDED

Youth Work Ireland is a Federal service that supports the delivery of youth work to young people both directly and indirectly through its Member Youth Services (MYS). Youth Work Ireland is a Federal Organisation made up of 20 Local MYS who provide youth work services to young people.

Youth Work Ireland has a comprehensive list of policies and procedures as well as practice approaches that are committed to the following principles of best practice in Child Protection and Welfare as laid out in Children First 2017.

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where required to make a mandated report or to report a concern; we will do so following Tusla's reporting guidelines.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. While considering their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives (see Youth Work Ireland's Participation policy).
- Parents and/or carers have a right to respect and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family engagement with our services. This should be based on informed consent.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting their rights and needs, and the rights of their parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.
- Our commitment to ensuring young people are kept safe from harm is a central part of our organisational values and will be reflected in all key documents, plans, programmes and activities.

# 2 OUR SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

# 2 NATURE OF SERVICES AND PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

1. Youth Work Ireland supports, delivers and develops programmes to support the delivery of youth work.
2. Youth Work Ireland runs national events which engage young people in consultations on youth issues, youth practice and youth work.
3. Youth Work Ireland works to ensure the voices of young people are heard within the national organisation.
4. Youth Work Ireland organises a range of events for young people to take part in through their region or organisation.
5. Youth Work Ireland in partnership with the Dept. of Education and Youth (DOEY) and Foróige delivers the national Participation contract.
6. National office supports its members on matters pertaining to safeguarding and child protection by acting as a Garda Vetting conduit, working on national, international and sectoral groups.
7. Youth Work Ireland through its development work, develops projects with the corporate sector and others supporting volunteering and youth work.
8. National Office seeks to ensure that its MYS offer services that are based on the principles of Children First\* legislation and practice. We ensure that all our MYS comply with current safeguarding legislation and practice and have procedures and processes in place.

# Risk Assessment

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Identified Risk
A Child or young person could be harmed if an unsuitable person were to be recruited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Recruitment Policy and Procedures.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Garda Vetting Policy and Procedures.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Induction Policy and Procedures.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Supervision and Support Policies and Procedures.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Staff and Volunteer code of conduct.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Lone working Policy and Procedures.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland One to One Working Policy and Procedures.</li> </ul>
A child or young person could be harmed if a member of staff or volunteer failed to recognise or report a concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Safeguarding Statement and Safeguarding Guidance Document (Policies and Procedures).</li> <li>• Child Protection and Awareness Programme and the HSE Land Children First Training is mandatory.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Incident and Report policies and Procedures.</li> </ul>
A child or young person may be harmed by being bullied or abused by (an)other child(ren) either during, after an activity, on the premises, or online.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear process in place of setting ground rules/group contract in place.</li> <li>• Code of behaviour in place for children &amp; young people.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Anti Bullying Policy &amp; Procedures.</li> <li>• Youth Work Ireland Complaints Policy &amp; Procedures.</li> </ul>
A child may be harmed if the organisation failed to have in place robust processes for planning activities, residential programmes, trips and events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity programmes agreed in advance and communicated to participants and Parents/Guardians.</li> <li>• All activities, events and programmes are planned and include a full risk assessment.</li> <li>• All participants/Parents/Guardians provide informed consent to activities.</li> <li>• All Practice guidelines are followed.</li> <li>• Ratios and Supervision Standards are set and communicated.</li> <li>• Staff and volunteers are bound by the code of conduct and internal policies and procedures and are expected to act within their duties in Loco Parentis.</li> <li>• Group contract/standards of behaviour are set with young people.</li> <li>• Adequate insurances are in place.</li> </ul>
Possibility of abuse through online activity.	<p>All the above applies to online activities, and to instances of abuse causing harm or concern.</p> <p>In addition, Youth Work Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors online activity.</li> <li>• Has produced and delivers online guidelines, supports and training for young people, volunteers and staff.</li> </ul> <p>Any activity that is unacceptable or reportable that occurs in an online or other media format will be dealt with in the appropriate way and through the relevant procedures.</p>

# 5 PROCEDURES

Our Child Safe Guarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements in the Children First Act 2015, The Children First: National Guidelines 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 young people while they are availing of our service:

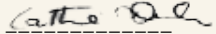
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers and volunteers of a child availing of our services.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children and young people.
- Procedure for provision of, and access to, child safeguarding training and information including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection and/or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons who are mandated persons within Youth Work Ireland.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All Procedures available on request.


# 6 IMPLEMENTATION

Youth Work Ireland recognises that the implementation of safeguarding and child protection is an ongoing process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep young people and children safe from harm while availing of our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 30th April 2027 or if there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:   
Date: 14/02/2026

Chairperson of Youth Work Ireland

Signed:   
Date: 15/02/2026

CEO of Youth Work Ireland

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