



Children & Young People Safeguarding Statement:

Youth Work Ireland Cork (YWIC) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice of Tusla Child and Family Agency and Children First Act 2015 requirements.

YWIC recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and young people;

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of our youth programmes and activities with Youth Work Ireland Cork in a safe environment
- are safe protected from abuse whilst participating in programmes within Youth Work Ireland Cork
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

The services we provide are:

Youth Work Ireland Cork is a community based youth work organisation operating an Integrated Youth Service Model, providing services to young people aged between 7 to 25 years. We are based in the Youth & Community Resource Centre, 'The Hut' in Gurrabraher. The service we provide are as follows:

Special Project for Youth (SPY):

- Homework support
- Cool art clubs x 2
- Teen Gym
- Soccer

- Mind Your Head (MYH) – Exploring mental health issues with young people – 8 week programme in 4 local schools
- Cyber Café
- Boys Group
- Girls groups x 2
- School Group
- Youth Council
- Erasmus+ Youth Mobility Projects

Arts and Music Project:

- Drop in and Draw for teenagers
- Arts for All for young people with different learning abilities
- Music Lessons
- Rapping groups x 3
- Band
- Singing

Drugs & Alcohol Community Outreach Project:

Responding to the specific issues at individual, family and community levels, created by substance misuse.

UpCork LGBT+ Youth Group Outreach:

Provide a holistic, inclusive and empowering service to LGBT+ young people (12+)

One To One Support: For young people with additional needs, the organisation delivers tailored support on an individual basis where appropriate

Steps to Cope programme: A brief intervention helping young people (aged 11 to 18 years) affected by parental alcoholism/addiction/mental health issues.



Local Training Initiative (LTI):

FETAC level 4 Arts & Creativity Course for young people aged 16 to 25 years.

Youth Work Ireland Cork Safeguarding Procedures:

- All staff, volunteers and students have been Garda Vetted
- All staff, volunteers and students will undertake Child Protection Training to ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- Procedures are in place for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- It is a requirement for all staff / volunteers/students to read, sign and comply with the procedures outlined in our Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- Ensure staff, volunteers and students are aware of who the Designated Liaison Person is (Eleanor O’Sullivan).
- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- Recruitment procedures are in place to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- Robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.



All policies and procedures are widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Youth Work Ireland Cork. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Risk assessment of potential harm to children whilst availing of our services:

A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to identify potential areas of harm and to implement measures to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management Process.

Monitoring:

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance.
- as required by Tusla, Child and Family Agency and Youth Work Ireland (National Office).
- as a result of any other significant change or event.
- This statement will be reviewed in March 2019.

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