

# YOUTH WORK IRELAND MEATH CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

**1. Name of Service being provided:** Youth Work Ireland Meath

**2. Nature of Service provided and principles to safeguard children from harm:**

Youth Work Ireland Meath is a countywide Youth Service with youth clubs and programmes operating an Integrated Youth Service model provision with young people aged 10 - 24 and operated by qualified Youth Workers and trained volunteers who work on generic programmes with young people.

Youth Work Ireland Meath is committed to the principles laid out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and has a set of policies to ensure best practice. Youth Work Ireland Meath is committed to:

- seeking to ensure that we offer activities that are based on the principles of Children First. We ensure that all our staff and volunteers comply with current Safeguarding Legislation and practice.
- supporting, running, and developing programmes to support the delivery of youth work. All programmes are compliant with legislation and include the principles of Children First.
- sourcing additional funding for specific youth work programmes; we therefore ensure compliance with legislation and sound business practice.
- running events engaging young people in consultations on youth issues, youth practice and youth work. All such events are run in compliance with Children First Legislation and practice.
- supporting our Youth Advisory Group, made up of young people who work to ensure the voice of young people is heard within our organisation.
- organising a range of events for young people to take part in through the county such as the IYMA's, Inter-regional Youth Club activities, National Events, Pride, and others. All events are planned, organised and run in compliance with Children First legislation and practice.
- supporting its members on matters pertaining to Safeguarding and Child Protection by acting as Garda Vetting conduit, delivering Child Safeguarding and Protection training, organising, and supporting other training (CPAP Trainers, DLP Training, Board briefing), supporting the work of Youth Work Ireland's Safeguarding Subgroup, developing a shared organisational policy, providing support for members.
- being involved in a number bodies nationally and locally that support young people's participation.

**3 Risk assessment of potential harm to children while availing of our services:**

Youth Work Ireland Meath has carried out an assessment of any potential of risk of harm to a child availing of our services. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these areas have been identified and can be obtained through our office.

**4 Procedures:**

Our Child Safe-Guarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements of 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:

- the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our services
- the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children and young people
- provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- the reporting of child protection and/or welfare concerns to Tusla
- maintaining a list of the persons who are mandated persons within Youth Work Ireland Meath
- appointing a relevant person
- participating in designed programmes (referral forms, consent forms, medical consent/information, times, durations, venues, travel/transport, supervision ratios, additional needs, Insurance cover)
- attending regional events (consent forms, medical consent/information times, durations, venues, travel/transport, supervision ratios, additional needs, Insurance cover)
- Accidents/Injuries (consent forms, medical consent/information, reporting forms, Insurance cover)
- Opening/Closing of Premises (walk through/check procedures)

**5 Implementation:**

Youth Work Ireland Meath recognises that the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement 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 on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

Chairperson

Dated: 26th March 2024

For queries please contact Geraldine Hogarty on 046-9093402, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015