

Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of Service:

Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan

YWICM is a community based youth work organisation operating an Integrated Youth Service Model providing services to young people from 6 youth centres and a number community facilities at the heart of the community in Counties Cavan and Monaghan.

2. The services we provide are:

Youth Club Development: 4 volunteer led youth clubs work with children and young people across the region.

Community Youth Projects: 8 youth projects engage with the local community to identify and respond to the needs of young people in their area.

Detached Youth Programme: YWICM provides the Detached Youth Work Programme in 11 locations across the region.

Youth Information Services: Youth Information Services are provided at 2 locations.

Education: YWICM provides the Include Youth Service to provide young people who are out of school with access to further education and training.

Training: YWICM provides the Youth Employability Project to support young to access further training and employability.

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

Youth Participation: YWICM facilitates youth participation at all levels of the organisation.

3. Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:

Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan 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.
- The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm.
- Interventions by the State should build on existing strengths and protective factors in the family.
- Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where it is necessary for the State to intervene to keep children safe, the minimum intervention necessary should be used.
- Children should only be separated from parents/carers when alternative means of protecting them have been exhausted.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.

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

Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan has included the risk of harm to a child as a new category in the organisations Risk Management Policy & Procedures. A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to identify potential areas of harm and to identify measures to be implemented to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management Process. The risks and how they will be managed are as follows:

RISK IDENTIFIED

A child or young person could be harmed if an unsuitable person was recruited as a staff member or volunteer

PROCEDURES AND MEASURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK IDENTIFIED

- YWICM Recruitment Policy & Procedures
- YWICM Garda Vetting Policy & Procedures
- YWICM Induction Policies & procedures
- YWICM Supervision Policy & Procedures
- YWICM Code of Behaviour for Staff & Volunteers
- YWICM Disciplinary Policy & Procedures
- YWICM Lone Working policy
- YWICM Policy on One to One Work

Children could be harmed if staff or volunteers failed to recognise or report a disclosure or concern

- YWICM Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures
- Child Protection & Awareness and HSE and Children First training is mandatory
- YWICM Incident Reporting Policy & Procedures

A child or young person may be harmed by being bullied or abused by another child or young person during activities, after activities, on the premises or via social media

- Clear process in place of contracting/setting ground rules with all groups
- Code of behaviour in place for children & young people
- YWICM Anti Bullying Policy & Procedures
- YWICM Complaints Policy & Procedures

A child may be harmed if the organisation failed to have in place robust processes for planning activities, residential programmes, trips and events at local, regional, national or international levels

All activities are planned carefully in advance to ensure risks are avoided

- Activity programmes agreed in advance and communicated with parents and young people
- Risk assessments are carefully conducted at all levels and for all activities
- Explicit consent is secured from young people and parents
- Clear agreements on expectations and acceptable behaviour are made in advance of all activities
- Insurance cover extended for all planned activities
- Ratios and supervision standards clearly set and communicated

Risk of harm to children and young people such as accessing inappropriate material, being targeted by inappropriate adults or personnel or cyberbullying during online activities

- Group contracts in place for children & young people on use of social media.
- Cyber Health and Education workshops incorporated into programmes
- Keeping You Safe poster visible at activity level Cyber Safety Poster visible in activity & I.T. spaces
- YWICM Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures WSTCYS Incident Reporting Policy & Procedures
- YWICM Complaints Policy & Procedure in place

A child or young person may be harmed due to failure to manage multi-purpose situations appropriately

- YWICM Health & Safety Policy & Procedures in place
- YWICM Risk Assessments of all activities & spaces
- Supervision of children and young people maintained at all times
- Scheduling and planning takes account of minimising and managing cross-over of services

5. Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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 services.


- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child while 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 mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available on request.

6. Implementation:

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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 3rd October 2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Shirley Donegan
Chairperson of the Board

Date:

03/10/2024

Designated Person For Safeguarding Statement

For Further Details Contact:

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Youth Work Ireland
Cavan Monaghan