



Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of Service: Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG

2. The services we provide are:

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG is a community-based youth work organisation operating an Integrated Youth Service Model providing services to young people within Cork. CDYS is a provider of youthwork, education, training and employability services and youth friendly spaces. The services are based in locations across Cork in buildings such as youth centres, community houses and community facilities. The services we provide are as follows:

- Youth Diversion Programme.
- Learning Training Initiatives
- Ministry Youth Work.
- Counselling Services.
- Your Place, Your Space Projects.
- Detached Youth Work.
- International Youth Work Opportunities.
- Support to youth clubs affiliated to CDYS.
- Creative Community Alternatives Projects and Partnership, Prevention and Family Support
- Up Cork.

CDYS is a registered charity and a member of Youthwork Ireland.

3. Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG, service is committed to the principles laid out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017. These are:

- 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:

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and there is a range of policies and procedures in place to assess and manage the risks identified.

Young person alone with staff member, volunteer, student, tutor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction training is provided for all individuals starting with the organisation • Lone Working policy • Code of Conduct for staff, scheme workers & volunteers • Safeguarding policy. • Strict working ratios and supervision are adhered to.
Any form of abuse/bullying against (another young person, parent, guardian, adult volunteer, student, staff member or member of the public)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect & Dignity Policy • Code of Conduct • Safeguarding training undertaken by all staff, scheme workers & volunteers • Code of Behaviour for young people • Disciplinary Policy & Procedures • Clear & transparent procedure in place for raising complaints • Incident reporting procedure in place • All staff, scheme workers, volunteers & students are Garda Vetted. • Induction training and procedures for all personnel.
A child or young person could be harmed if an unsuitable person was recruited as a staff member, volunteer, student on placement or external facilitator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigorous recruitment, induction and probation policy and procedures. • Interviewing & Reference Checks • Garda Vetting & Garda Vetting Committee • Induction to all policies & procedures • Probationary period • Safeguarding Training • Ongoing supervision • Team meetings • All events are adequately staffed and supervised.
Social Media - Cyberbullying, accessing inappropriate material. Targeted by inappropriate Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of behaviour & group contracts in place for children & young people. • Training & Information on Cyber Health and Education workshops • Safeguarding Policy in place and visible at activity level • Clear Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures in place • Incident Reporting Policy & Procedures in place • A complaints Policy & Procedure in place • Stringent IT security measures in place while young people are accessing CDYS hardware and software.

Risk from public, visitors to any of the centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Ratios maintained at all times in buildings & projects. • Young people never left alone in any premises • CCTV in premises. • Risk Assessment in place for activities in CDYS centres
Staff, Volunteers and / or students unaware or fail to respond to /or report a Child Safeguarding Concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff/students/volunteers participate in mandatory Child Safeguarding Training. • All new personnel are made aware through training and induction of what to do if they have a concern. • Procedures are displayed and visible in all our premises and facilities we use. • CDYS ensures Designated Liaison Persons are appointed. • All individuals are made aware of our Designated Liaison persons. • Staff are advised about mandated person role & responsibilities. • CDYS maintains a register of the mandated persons within the organisation. • Relevant contact details are displayed on posters in our centres. • All staff participate in ongoing training.
Risk of young person coming to harm on trips or at an activity or event hosted by CDYS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thorough risk assessment completed ahead of any planned activity or trip. All venues are pre-approved and covered by Insurance. • Supervision ratio adhered to. • Staff, scheme staff & volunteers bound by internal policies and procedures. • Code of Conduct for those working with Young People • Code of Behaviour for Young People • CDYS Policy on International Travel with Young People. • Attendance records are maintained.

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.

All procedures listed are available on our website www.cdys.ie or by request upon contacting reception reception@cdys.ie.

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 1st September 2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Lorraine O'Donovan C.E.O

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG

Signed: Cindy O'Shea, Chair

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG

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