

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board

Youth & Sport Development Service

The overall aim of DDLETB Youth and Sports Development Service is to provide a wide range of supports that enable the delivery and co-ordination of high quality educational, sporting, recreational and developmental programmes, projects and services to disadvantaged young people. Our operational values in providing our services are Equality, Collaboration, Innovation, Professionalism and Integrity. This is done in partnership with local communities, voluntary groups and voluntary youth organisations such as Crosscare, Foróige and YMCA

DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Service support the provision, co-ordination, administration and assessment of youth work services in its functional area and provide such information as may be requested by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in relation to such support and assess whether the manner in which it performs its functions is economical, efficient and effective

This is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Service has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement as set out below.

DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Service will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance,
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
 - *Childcare Act 1991*
 - *Protections For Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998*
 - *Criminal Justice Act 2006*
 - *Criminal Justice (withholding of information on offences against children and vulnerable persons) Act 2012*
 - *National Vetting Bureau (Children and vulnerable persons) Acts 2012-2016*
 - *Children First Act 2015*
 - *Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017*
 - *Education (Welfare) Act 2000*
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities (Túsła and Garda Síochána) in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children/young people.
- Protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
- Ensure youth services, youth projects and voluntary youth clubs funded through DDLETB have given assurance that they are in compliance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015
- All DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Service Officers, Managers, Teachers, Tutors and Youth Workers are mandated persons under the Children's First Act 2015
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Service has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a young person while attending or participating in activities directly managed by DDLETB Youth and Sports Development Service
- A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this statement can be accessed via the DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Service Website or will be made available on request.
- This statement will be available on DDLETB website and has been provided to all members of staff. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. This child safeguarding statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practical after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers

DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Service have carried out an assessment of any potential risk of harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a sample list of the areas of risk identified and procedures for managing these risks. A more detailed risk assessment is available on request

RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURE TO MANAGE RISK
Unsuitable adults having access to young people	Garda vetting for all staff /teachers/tutors/participants Reference checks and recruitment procedures
Non reporting of concerns due to risk of harm not being recognised by staff/volunteers	Child protection training for all staff. Circulation of Safeguarding Statement to all staff and on display to the public and on service website
Risk of inappropriate or abusive behaviour by staff, volunteers tutors teachers and participants.	Garda vetting for all staff/tutors/teachers and participants Child protection training for all staff. Clarity of roles (job descriptions) for staff Code of behaviour for staff and participants
Appropriate management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff/volunteers/tutors/teachers and participants	Child protection training for all staff. Clearly defined Child protection and HR policies and procedures.
Risk of harm from accessing inappropriate materials on line	IT policy for staff/tutors and teachers Level of staff supervision. Appropriate Internet filters.

The following procedures support our intention to safeguard young people while they are availing of our services:

- Procedure for the Management of Allegations or Suspicions of Child Abuse against Teachers and Other Employees
- Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and training of Staff to work with children and young people;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla and/or An Garda Siochana in accordance with Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 of Children's First 2017
- Child Protection Protocol authorising immediate action

All procedures listed are available upon request.

DDLETB Youth and Sport Development Services is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children/young people safe from harm while availing of our services.

The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in March, 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

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