

# KDYS Child Safeguarding Statement

## 1. KDYS Purpose, Services and Principles to safeguard children and young people from harm

Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS) is a Community-based Youth Work Organisation. We respond to the needs of Young People, their Families and Communities in a safe, caring and supportive manner.

### KDYS Mission and Values

*KDYS is a community-based youth work organisation committed to serving all young people in a safe, fun and positive environment, through the provision of youth spaces, services, mentoring, training and ongoing opportunities for their holistic development. Our Values are Young Person centred, Inclusive, Respectful, Non-judgemental, Fun, Empowering and Rights-based.*

KDYS provides a comprehensive range of youth work activities and programmes that support the social, emotional and physical well-being of young people. We are committed to ensuring that young people have opportunities to engage in developmental programmes, structures and activities so that they can lead happier, healthier lives. We do this by providing the following:



### Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:

Kerry Diocesan Youth Service is committed to the principles laid out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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.
- All children will be equally protected from harm regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

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

KDYS has completed a comprehensive assessment of the potential for harm to children and people who are engaged in the organisation and maintain a risk register in relation to this.

Harm in this context is related to assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child or young person that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child or young person’s health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child or young person. This register identifies the seven categories of risk identified in the Children First Act 2015.

**3. 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 (2017) and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Risk Category	Relevant Policies and Procedures
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer;	KDYS Child Protection Policy and Procedures fully implemented including: Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers while a child is availing of our service Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons Procedure for appointing a relevant person  KDYS Recruitment and Garda Vetting Policy to ensure the safe selection and recruitment of staff and volunteers Children First training provided to all staff and volunteers KDYS Staff and Volunteer Code of Behaviour  KDYS Safeguarding Policy in place and visible to the public and at activity level
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service	KDYS SOP’s for all buildings in place including booking and sign in systems informed by Children First  Health & Safety Policy & Procedures in place  Risk assessments conducted for all new & external venues  High levels of supervision provided to young people in KDYS buildings maintained at all times
Risk of harm of bullying of a child by an older child/peer	KDYS Procedure for provision of and access to Child Safeguarding training and information, including identification of the occurrence of harm

	<p>KDYS Code of Behaviour in place for children &amp; young people</p> <p>KDYS Group contracts in place for young people</p> <p>KDYS Anti-bullying Policy &amp; Procedures in place</p> <p>KDYS adult to children ratio and supervision standards clearly set and communicated to staff and volunteers</p> <p>KDYS Incident Reporting Policy &amp; Procedures</p> <p>KDYS Complaints Policy &amp; Procedures</p>
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	<p>KDYS Policy and procedures for outings and residential trips</p> <p>KDYS Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla</p> <p>KDYS Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons available to all staff</p>
Risk of harm to a child due to lack of supervision	<p>KDYS Code of Behaviour in place for children &amp; young people</p> <p>KDYS Group contracts in place</p> <p>KDYS Code of Behaviour for staff and volunteers</p> <p>KDYS maintains strict adult to child ratios.</p>
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through the use of unauthorised photography; social media/internet use	<p>KDYS Data Protection Policy and Procedures in place</p> <p>KDYS procedure to manage consent (parent and child)</p> <p>KDYS Communications and Social Media Policy</p>

KDYS Safeguarding Risk Register and all relevant policies and procedures listed are available on request.

#### 4. 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 22nd February 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Chairperson, KDYS

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Date of Review: no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Signed:



CEO, KDYS

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

For queries please contact: Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015:

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