

KCYS Child Safeguarding Statement

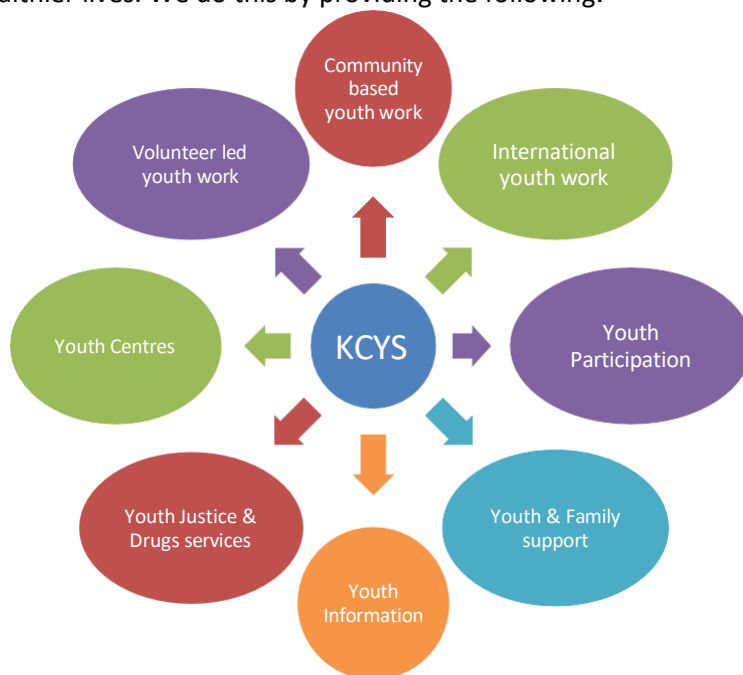
1. KCYS Purpose, Services and Principles to safeguard children and young people from harm

Kerry Community Youth Service (KCYS) 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.

KCYS Mission and Values

KCYS 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.

KCYS 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 Community 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:

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

	<p>KCYS Code of Behaviour in place for children & young people</p> <p>KCYS Group contracts in place for young people</p> <p>KCYS Anti-bullying Policy & Procedures in place</p> <p>KCYS adult to children ratio and supervision standards clearly set and communicated to staff and volunteers</p> <p>KCYS Incident Reporting Policy & Procedures</p> <p>KCYS Complaints Policy & 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>KCYS Policy and procedures for outings and residential trips</p> <p>KCYS Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla</p> <p>KCYS 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>KCYS Code of Behaviour in place for children & young people</p> <p>KCYS Group contracts in place</p> <p>KCYS Code of Behaviour for staff and volunteers</p> <p>KCYS 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>KCYS Data Protection Policy and Procedures in place</p> <p>KCYS procedure to manage consent (parent and child)</p> <p>KCYS Communications and Social Media Policy</p>

KCYS 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, KCYS

Date: 30^h May 2023

Date of Review: no later than 23rd May 2025

Signed:



CEO, KCYS

Date: 30th May 2023

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

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