



Children & Young People Safeguarding Statement

Cobh Youth Services (CYS) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice of Tusla Child and Family Agency and Children First Act 2015 requirements.

CYS recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and young people;

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of our youth programmes and activities with Cobh Youth Services in a safe environment
- are safe and protected from abuse whilst participating in programmes within Cobh Youth Services
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

Services:

Cobh Youth Services is a community based youth work organisation operating an Integrated Youth Service Model, providing services to young people aged between 5 to 25 years. We are based in 16 Middleton Street, Cobh, Co. Cork. The services we provide are as follows:

- After School Programme for children aged between 5 and 12 years
- Youth Services for young people aged 13 to 25 years

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

iScoil Blended Learning Centre: iScoil is an online learning service that offers a QQ1 level 3 accreditation opportunity to young people aged 13-16 years who are not in mainstream education. Students are referred to iScoil from Tusla's Educational Welfare Service.

Cobh Youth Services Safeguarding Procedures:

- All staff, volunteers and students have been Garda Vetted.
- All staff, volunteers and students will undertake Child Protection Training to ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- Procedures are in place for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- It is a requirement for all staff / volunteers/students to read, sign and comply with the procedures outlined in our Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- Ensure staff, volunteers and students are aware of who the Designated Liaison Person is (Eleanor O'Sullivan).
- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.



- Recruitment procedures are in place to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- Robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

All policies and procedures are widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Cobh Youth Services. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

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

A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to identify potential areas of harm and to implement measures to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management Process.

Monitoring:

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every two years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance.
- as required by Tusla, Child and Family Agency and Youth Work Ireland (National Office).
- as a result of any other significant change or event.
- This statement will be reviewed in February 2026.

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