



FDYS CLG

Ferns Diocesan Youth Service

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Service Being Provided

Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) supports the delivery of youth services, childcare services and youth work to young people, community services and family support services.

2. Nature of Services and Principles to Safeguard Children

1. FDYS operates within the principles of Children First¹ legislation and practice. We ensure that all our work and projects comply with current safeguarding legislation and practice and have procedures and processes in place.
2. We are compliant with legislation and sound practice.
3. Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) supports, delivers and develops programmes to support the delivery of youth work. All programmes must be compliant with legislation and include the principles of Child First legislation and practice.
4. We engage young people in consultations on youth issues, youth practice and youth work. All such events are run in compliance with Child First legislation and practice.
5. We have Teen Advisory Groups made up of young people who work to ensure the voices of young people are heard.
6. Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) organises a range of events for young people. All events are planned, organised and run in compliance with Children First legislation and practice.
7. Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) in partnership with the Dept. of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) national participation contract in compliance with Children First legislation and practice. (Comhairle na Nog).

¹ Child First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
www.dcyja.gov.ie/documents/publications/20171002ChildrenFirst2017.pdf

8. Our childcare services, family support services and community services are compliant with Children First legislation and practice.
9. Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) through its development work, develops projects to support volunteering and youth work.

3. Our Principles to Safeguard

Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) is committed to the principles laid out in Child 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.
- Early Intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where required to make a mandated report or to report a concern; we will do so following Tusla's reporting guidelines².
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. While considering their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents and/or carers have a right to respect and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family engagement with our services. This should be based on informed consent.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting their rights and needs, and the rights of their parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.
- Our commitment to ensuring young people are kept safe from harm is a central part of our organisational values and will be reflected in all key documents, plans, programmes and activities.

² A Guide for the Reporting of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns, Tusla, 2017
http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guide_to_Reporters_Guide_A4_vs.pdf

4. Risk Assessment

Risk Identified:	Procedures in Place to Manage Identified Risk:
<p>1. A member of the organisation fails to report an issue or concern of harm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Statement has been circulated to all staff. • Mandated reporters have been identified and made aware of and briefed on their mandatory reporting and assisting obligations. • Safeguarding is a standing item for staff induction, staff meetings and staff supervision. • The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is clearly identified to all staff and volunteers. • Reporting and safeguarding issues are reiterated to staff and volunteers at all external events. • Safeguarding is a standing item at Board meetings. • Plans, projects and programmes are safeguard-proofed to ensure compliance with Children First legislation and practice, and to identify any risk to young people. • Staff disciplinary and volunteer code of behaviour are updated to include failure to report a concern or harm, as set out in the appropriate reporting procedures. • All staff and volunteers undertake agreed briefing and trainings as per our procedures and guidelines including the E-learning module.
<p>2. An allegation, complaint or report of abuse is made against a volunteer, staff member or other third party engaged:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear procedure for raising concern and complaint against staff and/or volunteers is in place. • A clear procedure is in place for the reporting and management investigation of allegations against any member of staff/volunteer. • Staff and volunteer codes of conduct are in place and either informed as part of staff induction, or as part of the initial briefing and training of volunteers. Regional staff and volunteers will have been through their local compulsory briefings and trainings. • All staff and volunteers are subject to our recruitment and selection process. • All staff and volunteers are subject to an initial and repeat Garda Vetting through the National Vetting Bureau prior to commencement of any duties/role with organisation. • A procedure is in place for dealing with complaints made against third party such as contractors and other others engaged with Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG). • Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with key partners. • It is the policy of Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) to support investigations by An Garda Siochana and/or Tusla as requested. • Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG)'s Service Level Agreement (SLA), Constitution and compliance function include and reference safeguarding and child protection • Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG)'s compliance function

<p>3. Allegation, report or observation of peer abuse of peer:</p>	<p>carries out an annual safeguarding and child protection audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear procedure is in place for reporting all issues of harm or concern by all staff and volunteers as appropriate. • There is a clear procedure for raising complaints. • A clear policy and procedure on anti-bullying is in place. • All volunteers and staff are trained in line with Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017. • All events are adequately planned, staffed and supervised. • All groups and activities will have a set of agreed ground rules that have been discussed and agreed with young people. • Staff and volunteer training covers dealing with bullying and discriminatory behaviour. • All venues are checked, and risk assessed with actions identified in the planning and delivery of any events.
<p>4. Activities, programmes and events may create a level of additional risk due to the nature of the event:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities, events and programmes are planned to include a full risk assessment. • All participants provide informed consent to activities. • All staff are briefed and will have undertaken appropriate induction, briefing and training. • Bona Fides of third party providers are checked, including qualifications and vetting. • All off site events are subject to a pre-visit check and are risk assessed. • Programmes are either in-house or from a bona fide source that has an evidence base in practice and are both age and young person proofed. • Staff and volunteers are bound by the code of conduct and internal policies and procedures and are expected to act within their duties in <i>Loco Parentis</i>. • Controls identified through the risk assessment are put in place. • All planning is young person centred and is cognisant of the group and community that is taking part.
<p>5. Possibility of abuse through online activity:</p>	<p>All the above applies to online activities, and to instances of abuse causing harm or concern.</p> <p>In addition, Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitors online activity. • Has produced and delivers online guidelines, supports and training for young people, volunteers and staff. • Any activity that is unacceptable or reportable that occurs in an online or other media format will be dealt with in the appropriate way and through the relevant procedures.

5. Procedures

Our Child Safe Guarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements in the Children First Act 2015³, The Children First: National Guidelines and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice⁴.

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard young people while they are availing of our service.

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers and volunteers of a child availing of our services.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children and young people.
- 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 and/or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons who are mandated persons within Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG).
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All Procedures available on request.

6. Implementation

Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG) recognises that the implementation of safeguarding and child protection is an ongoing process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep young people and children safe from harm while availing of our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed 30 June 2018, or if there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

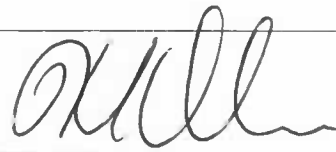


Chairperson, FDYS CLG

Date:

13/3/18

Signed:



CEO, FDYS CLG

Date:

13 Mar 2018

Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS CLG)
Francis Street
Wexford

For queries please contact: Kieran Donohoe, kieran.donohoe@fdys.ie/ 053 91 23262
Relevant person under the Children First Act 2015.

³ Children First Act, 2015 <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf>

⁴ Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, Tusla <http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla-Child-Safeguarding-A-Guide-for-Policy,-Procedure-and-Practice.pdf>