

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



- 1** Name of Service: National Youth Council of Ireland
- 2** Address of Service: 3 Montague Street, Dublin 2 D02 V327
- 3** Nature of Service & Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

The National Youth Council of Ireland is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. It uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people.

NYCI is not a youth work organisation that provides direct services to children and young people. We do engage with young people in a variety of different ways, the range of activities which children and young people might be involved with NYCI includes the following:

Involvement in:

- Recruitment of young people: to serve as representatives on committees, to serve as representatives for foreign delegations (UN & EU), to serve on working groups, to serve as representatives/speakers for campaigns or events, and to serve on interview panels.
- Facilitation or engagement with young people for specific activities such as youth panels, working groups, representatives etc.
- One-off consultations with young people – either recruited directly or nominated/contacted through youth organisations or NYCI partners
- Facilitate overnight or residential trips with young people (at-home and abroad)
- Working in partnership with other youth organisations or NYCI partners delivering programmes directly to young people or co-facilitating events
- Communication with young people online and via social media platforms re; events, advocacy, campaigns etc.
- Funding youth organisations to deliver services/programmes to young people.

The National Youth Council of Ireland is committed to the protection of children and young people with whom we work and advocate for, and to promoting good practice within our organisation. NYCI is committed to promoting the rights of the child including the participation of children and young people in matters that affect them. NYCI is committed to adhering to Children First National Guidance 2017 and the Children First Act 2015. The best interests and the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration underpinning all NYCI interactions and decisions.

4 Risk Assessment

NYCI has carried out a comprehensive assessment of any potential risk of harm (as defined in Children First Act 2015) to a child while availing of our services and the likelihood of these occurring. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these areas have been summarised in the table below. The comprehensive risk assessment is available on request.

Risk	Policies & Procedures to Mitigate Risk
Risk of Harm of a child by staff/volunteer/facilitator	Child Safeguarding Policy, Procedures & Guidelines Recruitment & induction procedures
Risk of Harm by a visitor	Support & Supervision Policy Garda Vetting Policy
Risk of Harm by another child/young person	Garda Vetting Matrix NYCI Code of Behaviour
Risk of Harm of a child on outings/overnights or at NYCI events by staff/volunteer / stranger or peer	Safeguarding Training Matrix Consent Forms, Registration Forms Safeguarding Training

Risk	Policies & Procedures to Mitigate Risk
Risk of Harm through access to ICT (social media or web access, electronic contact).	Consent Forms, Registration Forms Social Media policy GDPR Policy
Partnerships with youth organisations	NYCI Code of Behaviour Guidelines for working in partnership
Reporting Concerns	Safeguarding Display posters Child Safeguarding Policy, Procedures & Guidelines



5 Procedures

NYCI's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service (see NYCI's Child Protection Policy for details on the following procedures):

- Procedure for the management of **allegations of abuse** or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service.
- Procedure for the **safe recruitment and selection** of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- 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 or welfare concerns** to Tusla.
- Procedure for **maintaining a list of mandated persons in NYCI under the Children First Act 2015**.
- **Procedure for appointing a relevant person.**

All procedures listed are available upon request.

6 Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. 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 service.

7 Date for Review

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in March 2026 or sooner where there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

8 Relevant Person

Mary Cunningham
Relevant Person in respect of the
Child Safeguarding Statement
CEO
014784122

Signed
Mary Cunningham