

KDYS Child Safeguarding Statement

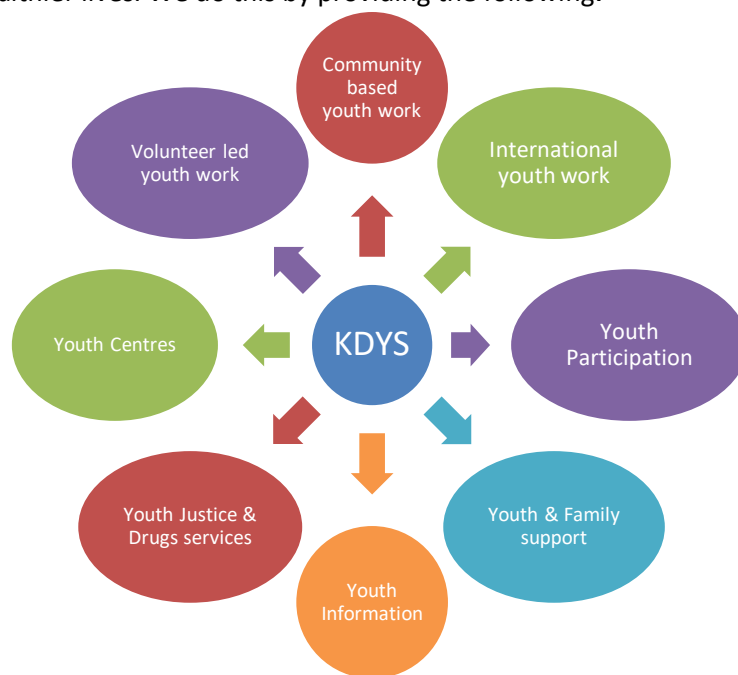
1. Our Purpose, Services and Principles to safeguard children and young people from harm

Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS) is a Community-based Youth Work Organisation. We respond to the needs of Young People, their Families and their Communities in a caring and supportive manner. Our Values are Young Person centred, Inclusive, Respectful, Non-judgemental, Fun, Empowering and Professional

Our Mission

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.

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. These are:

- 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.

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

KDYS has completed an assessment of the potential for harm to children and people that 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 all risks of harm and lists the procedures, policies; programmes and practices that help reduce or eliminate these risks.

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. 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 services.

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child while 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.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All 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.




Date: 22nd February 2022

Date: 22nd February 2022

Chairperson, KDYS

Acting General Manager, KDYS

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

Gareth Harteveld, KDYS Youth Centre, Upper Church St., Listowel, Co. Kerry 068 23744/0870576213