



Child Safeguarding Statement of Dublin Youth Theatre

Name of service being provided: Dublin Youth Theatre

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

Dublin Youth Theatre successfully delivers quality creative experiences that promote artistic, personal and social development for young people aged 14 to 22 in Dublin. Dublin Youth Theatre delivers quality artistic experiences through a full and varied drama workshop programme and the production of excellent, exciting and challenging theatre made by young people. DYT is committed to maintaining a high artistic standard in its productions and engaging with contemporary theatre and youth theatre on a local, national and international level. DYT engages leading theatre artists and skilled, experienced youth theatre practitioners to deliver its artistic programme. DYT places itself at the centre of cultural life in Dublin and is a permanent home for an ongoing ensemble of young theatre artists. DYT is a safe, welcoming place where members can meet other young people from all parts of Dublin in a fun, artistic and social environment. DYT is open to all young people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, national origin, sexual orientation, ability or faith.

Dublin Youth Theatre is committed to a young-person centred approach in our work. We undertake to provide a safe environment and positive experience, the welfare of the young person being of paramount importance. We will adhere to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*.

We have developed policies and procedures to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of the youth theatre. Our Welfare and Child Protection Policy gathers all policies and procedures that relate to work with young people. The **board** recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of members, staff and volunteers. This policy is targeted at all adults involved in the youth theatre, be they staff or volunteers. Parents and members will be informed of relevant policies and procedures. Youth theatre members will be informed of procedures and policies as they relate to their participation.

We work with young people aged 14 to 22. **We carry out a range of youth theatre related activities including:**

- **Drama Workshops**
- **Theatre Productions**
- **Rehearsals**
- **Residential trips away/International Exchanges**
- **Trips to the theatre**

Risk Assessment

Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows: ‘harm means in relation to a child– (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or, (b) sexual abuse of the child.’

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedures in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm not being recognised by youth theatre personnel (board members, leaders, staff or volunteers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for Child Protection and Handling Suspected Abuse • Policy for Supervision, Support and Training of Staff/Volunteers
2	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by youth theatre personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/volunteer induction, particularly covering role of DLP and Mandated Persons • Internal Reporting Procedures • Standard Reporting Procedures
3	Risk of young person being harmed by youth theatre personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and Selection Policy including Garda Vetting Policy • Policy for the Supervision/ training and support of staff/volunteers • Code of Behaviour for

		staff/volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on Adult/Young People Ratios
4	Risk of young person being harmed by another young person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-bullying policy • Code of Behaviour for members • Group Contract for Members • Policy for Child Protection and Handling Suspected Abuse
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people, particularly in shared spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on Adult/Young People Ratios • Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers
6	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between youth theatre personnel and a young person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Communications Policy • Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers • Policy on Transport Arrangements • Online Workshop and Rehearsal Protocol
7	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on Use of Images/Video Footage • Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers • Online Workshop and Rehearsal Protocol
8	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidentiality Policy • Data Protection Privacy Policy • Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers • Online Workshop and Rehearsal Protocol

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in line *with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child/ young person availing of our service
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons; **Our DLP is the General Manager, Sarah Bragg-Bolger**
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. **The Relevant person of Dublin Youth Theatre is Sarah Bragg-Bolger**
- Complaints Policy/Procedures
- Disciplinary/Appeals Procedures
- Procedures for Trips Away/ Residentials
- Policy on including Members aged 18 or over
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures
- Policy on Informing Parents
- Guidelines on Dealing with Disruptive Behaviour
- Policy on Interagency Cooperation
- Online Workshop and Rehearsal Protocol

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 5 March 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (Chairperson)

Deirdre Molloy
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For queries, please contact Sarah Bragg-Bolger, 18 Montague Lane, Dublin 2, 01 874 3687 or 085 850 0856, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.