

Child Safeguarding Statement of County Wexford Youth Theatre

1. **Name of service being provided:** County Wexford Youth Theatre

2. **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm**

County Wexford 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 incorporates all policies and procedures that relate to work with young people. Bare Cheek Theatre Company recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of members and staff. Our policy is targeted at all adults involved in the youth theatre, be they staff or volunteers. Parents /guardians 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 12 to 18. We carry out a range of youth theatre related activities including:

- Drama Workshops
- Theatre Productions
- Rehearsals
- Trips away/International Exchanges

3. **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	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm not being recognised by youth theatre personnel (leaders, staff or volunteers)	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
2	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by youth theatre personnel	All personnel are provided with procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla. Including information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Persons

3	Risk of young person being harmed by youth theatre personnel	Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children including procedure for Garda Vetting. Policy for the supervision/ training and support of staff Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers
4	Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person	Anti-bullying policy Group Contract for Members
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people	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	Policy on Communications with young people Code of Behaviour for Leaders Procedures for Giving Lifts to Young People
7	Risk of harm caused by youth theatre personnel communicating with young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	Policy on Communications with young people
8	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	Policy on Use of Images
9	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data.	Confidentiality Policy

4. 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 as we have no Mandated Person Our DLP is Monika McCleane

- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. The Relevant person of County Wexford Youth Theatre is Tony McCleane-Fay.
- 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

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. 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 31 December 2021, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Tony McCleane-Fay (Provider)

For queries, please contact Tony McCleane-Fay, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.