

OSSORY YOUTH - CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Name of Service: Ossory Youth

Ossory Youth is a voluntary, non-profit youth work organisation working with and for young people within the Diocese of Ossory, covering County Kilkenny and parts of Laois and Offaly.

The services we provide are:

- Rural Youth Club Development and Support.
- UBU funded Youth Programmes and Youth Groups designed to deliver the following outcomes: communication skills, confidence and agency, planning and problem-solving, relationships, creativity and imagination, resilience and determination and emotional intelligence.
- One to One support for young people and parents (Connections & Mentoring Programme).
- Post-Primary Schools Outreach Programme (Mental Health, Sexual Health & Relationships, Alcohol & Drugs Awareness).
- Youth Information Service (Career pathways, Preparation Interviews, one to one support).
- Traveller Youth Work (Behaviour, social inclusion and equity, employability).
- Desart Hall Youth Café & Drop-in (Daytime, evenings and weekends).
- LGBT Support & Advocacy Youth Group (Affiliated to Belong To).
- Garda Youth Diversion Project (IYJS).
- Counselling support to young people.
- Kilkenny City & Rural Dr
- Summer Programmes.

Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:

Ossory Youth 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.

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

Ossory Youth has conducted a comprehensive risk assessment to identify potential areas of harm and to implement measures to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management Process.

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 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.

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 16th September 2023 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Relevant Person: Patrick Bookle



Padraig Fleming

Chairperson, Board of Directors.

15th September 2021



For further details contact:

Mary Mescal C.E.O.,
Ossory Youth,
Desart Hall,
New Street,
Kilkenny.
Tel: (056) 7761200 Mob: (087) 2369841
Email: mmescal@ossoryyouth.com