



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Clay Youth Project April 24th, 2023

1. Service Being Provided

Clay Youth Centre is a local community-based Youth Project that delivers Youth Work directly to young people in the Lower Crumlin and surrounding areas. Clay is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered charity and is managed by a voluntary board of directors.

2. Nature of Service

Clay Youth Project provides a range of service to enhance the life skills and opportunities for young people. A youthwork programme (aged 10-25) provides for the emotional and social development of young people through planned group activity, programmes, and events.

This service includes the following.

- A youth diversion programme (8-11 and 12-18) that supports young people's development through intensive small group and one to one intervention, activity, and programmes.
- A family support programme is part of the youth diversion programme, and its main activity is supporting the self-sufficiency of families whose children /young people are part of Clay YDP through small group and one to one activity that includes parents, guardians, and kinship relationships.
- A youth employability programme for 15-25 year olds that supports the transitioning of young people into further opportunity, employment, and training.

3. Clay Principles to Safeguard Young People and Children from harm

- CLAY CLG is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all the children and young people with whom we work with, and we are committed to the principles laid out in Childrens First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.
- Clays CLG's policy on Child Safeguarding and Child Protection is in accordance with "Children First Act, 2015 and includes provision to keep children safe from harm, including the right to be consulted, the right to protection, and adherence to inclusion/anti-discriminatory practice. As such we work with dedication to comply and integrate 'Safeguarding' principles in all areas of our work with and on behalf of young people.
- Clay Youth project is committed to creating a safe and healthy environment for the young people. in which they can play, learn, and develop. We are committed to child and young person-centred practice in all our work.
- Clay Youth Project staff work with principles that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, and the best interests of the child are paramount.
- Our Project works from the position that the participation of children and young people is essential in matters that affect them. In relation to parents/guardians, we respect and actively engage them with in matters that concerns their family. If there is conflict, the child's welfare must come first.
- Clay Youth Project supports the principle that child protection and safeguarding work is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary activity, and we work from the position that agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of young people and children.
- Our safeguarding policy, declaration and practice applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, staff, volunteers, and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.
- Clay Youth Project will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner, if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

4. Risk Assessment

The aim and purpose of this document is to safeguard children, young people, families, and staff. 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 of harm to child/young person by a member of staff/volunteer by failing to report a concern or incident of harm.

Clays Safeguarding statement has been circulated. It directs all work of the staff and is on display in the activity areas of the centre. It is also made available to all parents and young people and available on Clay's Website.

Mandated persons have been identified and made aware of their mandatory reporting and assisting obligations.

Non mandated person is aware of reporting procedures and reporting of concerns to DLP.

Safeguarding Training is part of induction as well as being a standing item on all team meetings, supervision, and board meetings.

Safeguarding training is part of all volunteer's induction and this is reflected in volunteer policy. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is clearly identified and known to all staff and young people.

Risk of harm to child/young person by a member of staff/volunteer

Dealing with Allegations Relating to Staff/Volunteers Policy within Clay Safeguarding Policy. Clear procedures for managing investigating and reporting of allegations are in place.

Child protection procedures are in place including Safe recruitment practices and garda vetting - repeat garda vetting practices in place.

Code of Behaviour, code of practice policy are included in induction training.

Plans, activities, and events are safeguard proofed to ensure compliance to safeguarding practices and sub policies.

SLAs have within the funding requirements compliance with national safeguarding policy as a standard.

Risk of harm caused by lack of supervision of young people by staff member

Clear procedure for raising concerns is in place and complaints procedures for both young people and parents /guardians in place. Garda vetting / References checks. Supervision of young people policy and procedures. Safe management of Activities policy. Antbullying policy. Residential policy including changing rooms and bedroom practices/procedures. Exchange practice and policy. Risk assessment practices on activities and events. Challenging behaviour policy. Bus and young people Policy. Transporting Young people policy. Individual Work Policy. Health and Safety Policy.

Risk of harm by a visitor to the service (workers, parents, placements, etc.);

Health and Safety Policy. Visitors Policy. Volunteer and student placements policy. A procedure is in place for dealing with third parties such as contractors etc and planning this at appropriate times. Working with Parents Policy

Risk of harm by another child in the service (Peer to Peer) or risk of harm to themselves

Supervision of young people policy and procedures - all events are adequately staff and supervised. Safe management of Activities policy / ratio of young people to worker's practice Antbullying policy / anti-discrimination practices - safe management of incident and incident follow up practice. Residential policy including changing rooms and bedroom practices/procedures. Age-appropriate planning. Exchange practice and policy. Risk assessment practices on activities and events. Challenging behaviour policy. Bus and young people Policy. Transporting Young people policy. Individual work Policy.

Clay Young people participating in events without a clear child safeguarding focus

Child Safeguarding statement and procedures. Performance Management systems. Health and Safety policy. Working in partnership safeguarding practices.

Risk of harm of abuse through online activity.

Working with Young people / parents through social media platforms policy. Online safety policy. Non access to internet policy. Be safe online training for young people and parents workshops

5. Additional Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, 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 plan to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

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 Tulsa.

Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons who are mandated persons.

Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Procedures for managing online safeguarding of young people.

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. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 25th April 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: *Martin Leavy*
Chairperson of Clay Youth Project

Relevant Person
Lorraine McHugh

31 A Crumlin Road Dublin 12
Date: 25th April 2023

Lorraine McHugh
086 794 4364