



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

CLAY Youth Project 24th April 2025

1. Nature of Service

CLAY Youth Project is a Youth Centre that provides a range of services to enhance the life skills and opportunities for young people in the Lower Crumlin and surrounding areas.

This service includes the following:

- A youthwork programme, UBU (aged 10-25) that provides for the emotional and social development of young people through planned group activity, programmes, and events.
- A (YDP) 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.
- YDP Early Intervention programme ages 8-11
- YDP over 12s programme ages 12-18
- 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.

2. 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. CLAY's CLG's policy on 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 concern 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 policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
- 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.

3. 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.

1. **Risk of harm of a child by a member of staff/volunteer from things they have done (e.g. hurt a child) or failed to do (e.g. not report a concern);**
Child protection procedures; Mandated persons; Safeguarding Training; Children first Training; Garda Vetting; Always 2 staff present with young people
2. **Risk of harm (caused by lack of supervision)**
Supervision policy; Always 2 staff present with young people
3. **Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child) visitor or member of the public**
Garda Vetting of staff/ volunteers; Garda vetting of students by college; Volunteer Policy; Recruitment Policy; Health and Safety Policy; Visitors Policy; Young people are aware of the relevant people(s) to address concern with when in CLAY. Members of the public are not permitted to be in the care/ supervision of young people

4. **Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member**

Staff/volunteer/ student check-ins are held after every program. Staff/volunteers/students are given a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement. Staff/volunteers are trained to recognise and report child protection or welfare concerns. All concerns are brought to the attention of the Designated Liaison Person.

5. **Risk of harm by another child in the service or risk of harm to themselves**

Child protection Policy; Residential policy; Young people are regularly reminded to raise issues and concerns with staff. Staff check in with young people regularly.

6. **Risk of harm to a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer;**

Risk Assessments are done before every event/outing in CLAY. Staff planning and adequate adult supervision/gender balance for trips where possible.

Risk of harm of CLAY Young people participating in events without a clear child safeguarding focus

Child Safeguarding statement and procedures; Performance Management systems; Health and Safety policy

7. **Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) through access to ICT (e.g., social media or web access, electronic contact, etc).**

Young people don't have access to CLAY internet and Wi-Fi while in CLAY. Clay Youth Workers are provided with work phones which are subject to inspection by management. Two Youth Workers are in what's app groups with young people over 13+. Management also has access to CLAY's social media pages. No staff/volunteer shares person contacts information with young people.

4. 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 CLAY 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 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 the persons (if any) in the relevant service 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.

5. Implementation

CLAY Youth Project, through its staff and volunteers, 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 (April 2026) or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For queries, please contact;

Designated Liaison Person:

Rosie Keenan - rosie@clayproject.ie - 086 794 4354

Deputy Designated Liaison Person:

Bob Kenny - bob@clayproject.ie - 086 773 5991

Deputy Designated Liaison Person:

Toni Thompson - toni@clayproject.ie - 086 059 4728

Chairperson Signature: Deirdre O'Gorman *Deirdre O'Gorman*

Relevant Person Signature: Rosie Keenan *Rosie Keenan*

CLAY Youth Project CLG, 31A Crumlin Road Dublin 12 Date: 22nd April 2025

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