



## Child Safeguarding Statement

### 1. Name of the Service: SWAN Regional Youth Service

Location	Staff Numbers
St. Agatha's Hall, Dunne Street, Dublin 1, D01 E395	16
25 Spencer Dock, North Wall, Dublin 1, D01 P8P6	6
Unit 19.1.3 Docklands Innovation Park, East Wall, Dublin 3, D03 C3W5	7

### 2. Nature of the Service:

SWAN Regional Youth Service is a community-based youth work organisation providing an integrated service model to young people aged between 8-24 in three community facilities (listed above). SWAN Regional Youth Service engages with the local community to identify and respond to the needs of young people through Youth work, Detached Youth Work, Youth Justice Work (including Early Intervention and Family Support), and Youth Employment programmes.

Our activities include:

- Group work
- Open access
- 1:1 support (on-site and off-site)
- 2:2 support (on-site and off-site)
- Detached work
- Home visits (children and parents/caregivers)
- Overnight trips
- Day trips
- Telephone contact (phone and text)
- Social media contact (WhatsApp & Facebook)
- Agency visits (with occasional advocacy)
- Attending appointments

### 3. Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:

SWAN Regional Youth Service is committed to safeguarding all children/young people who attend the service; we believe that the welfare of the children/young people attending our service is paramount and that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. As a community-based youth service we view child protection as a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity and that agencies and professionals should work together in the best interests of the children /young people.

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, DCYA, 2017, Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure, Tusla, 2018, and the Children First Act 2015.

Our policy applies to all staff, volunteers, CE staff, young adult leaders, Board members and students on placement within our organisation. All of whom must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration, our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.

#### 4. Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Swan Youth Service has carried out a risk assessment of any potential harm in which could occur to a child or young person while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks has been completed in line with the legislation.

<b>Risk 1</b>	Risk of harm to a child by a staff member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of good practice and Policy guidelines for all work.</li> <li>• Child protection training for all staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015</li> <li>• A Relevant Person has been appointed</li> <li>• A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed.</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support.</li> <li>• Relevant staff support for young volunteers, students, CE staff and young leaders' programmes.</li> <li>• All staff and volunteers to complete CP Training. Staff to complete online Tusla training and NYCI Child Protection Awareness Programme. Volunteers to complete either training.</li> <li>• Code of behaviour / conduct for staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Clearly defined CP and HR policies and procedures that include the role and responsibilities of Boards to management.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk 2</b>	Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of good practice and Policy guidelines for all work.</li> <li>• Child protection training for all staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015</li> <li>• A Relevant Person has been appointed</li> <li>• A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed.</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support.</li> <li>• Relevant staff support for young volunteers, students, CE staff and young leaders' programmes.</li> <li>• All staff and volunteers to complete CP Training. Staff to complete online Tusla training and NYCI Child Protection Awareness Programme. Volunteers to complete either training.</li> <li>• Code of behaviour / conduct for staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Clearly defined CP and HR policies and procedures that include the role and responsibilities of Boards to management.</li> <li>• Anti-bullying policy implemented and reviewed regularly</li> <li>• Communications policy implement and reviewed regularly.</li> <li>• Risk assessment and planning of all activities undertaken by SWAN Regional Youth Service</li> <li>• Use of reputable centres with appropriate policies and procedures for hosting young people.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk 3</b>	Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction process for all youth workers, volunteers and students</li> <li>• Code of good practice and Policy guidelines for all work.</li> <li>• Child protection training for all staff, volunteers and students</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015</li> <li>• A Relevant Person has been appointed</li> <li>• A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed.</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support.</li> <li>• Relevant staff support for young volunteers, students, CE staff and young leaders' programmes.</li> <li>• All staff and volunteers to complete CP Training. Staff to complete online Tusla training and NYCI Child Protection Awareness Programme. Volunteers to complete either training.</li> <li>• Code of behaviour / conduct for staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Clearly defined CP and HR policies and procedures that include the role and responsibilities of Boards to management.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk 4</b>	Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of good practice and Policy guidelines for all work.</li> <li>• Child protection training for all staff, volunteers and students</li> <li>• A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed.</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Code of behaviour / conduct for staff and volunteers.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk 5</b>	Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies in HSE services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of SWAN Regional Youth Service Child Safeguarding Sub-Committee</li> <li>• Implementation of Policy and Procedures</li> <li>• Monitoring of policy implementation and training of youth workers, volunteers and students</li> <li>• Procedure for and appointment of a Relevant Person</li> <li>• Procedure for implementation and maintenance of Mandated Persons List</li> </ul>
<b>Risk 6</b>	Risk 6 - Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of good practice and Policy guidelines for all work.</li> <li>• Child protection training for all staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support.</li> <li>• Code of behaviour / conduct for staff and volunteers.</li> </ul>

**5. 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.

## 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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For further queries please contact: Aoife O'Regan (details below)  
(Relevant Person under Children First Act 2015)

### Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Protection

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