

Child Safeguarding Statement

"We work to empower young people to achieve their potential through quality youth work."

Carlow Regional Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland

1 Service Name

Carlow Regional Youth Service CLG. The C.R.Y.S. mission statement is **"We work to empower young people to achieve their potential through quality youth work"**. All of our work is informed by needs of the young people we work with, and we believe that young people have the ability to develop their own responses to the issues they face.

2 Services Provided

CRYS operates an integrated youth service model where all projects work together to secure good outcomes for young people.

Our service is comprised of the following projects:

CRYS Afterschool Project

Provides afterschool support in three locations including homework support & social & personal development interventions for vulnerable young people, aged 8 to 12 years, who need extra support to stay in school and thrive in life.

YARC Project

Provides support to young people, aged 12 to 18 years, who are having difficulties and engaging in 'at risk' behaviour, and is a first port of call for young people who are experiencing difficulties and aims to enhance the social and personal development of vulnerable young people.

Follaine Youth Counselling Service

Provides early intervention counselling support for young people aged 12 to 18 years. It operates from a 10 session youth counselling model.

Carlow Town Youth Project UBU

Provides a wide range of youth led youth work programmes and initiatives in three locations across Carlow town and Graiguecullen with young people aged 10 to 24 years. The project has nine target groups and aims to ensure that those who most need support in this area receive it.

Tullow Youth Project

Provides a wide range of youth led youth work programmes and initiatives based in the Bishops House, Tullow with outreach centres in Hacketstown and Ratho. The Project has eight target groups and successfully provides a range of needs based youth work programmes to young people from the target area.

Carlow Traveller Youth Project

Its key focus is to support young Travellers in their social and personal development and to remain in school or training as appropriate.

Bagenalstown and the South Carlow Youth Project

Provides young people, aged 12 to 18 years, throughout County Carlow, access to youth work programmes and initiatives in their locality. The project will have four key target groups and will provide outreach and detached youth work in Borris and the South Carlow area.

Carlow CBDI Project

Provides individual support for young people who are contemplating changing their substance use. The Project Worker works collaboratively with the HSE Ardu Substance Misuse Team to ensure that 12-18 year olds receive support within youth centres as appropriate.

Hub Youth Diversion Project

Provides one to one support for young people who have come to the attention of the JLO. The project aims to divert young people from being involved in offending behaviour and make better choices to reach their potential.

DSP Community Employment Programme

Gives opportunities for the participants to gain valuable experience and training in different areas.

3 Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Carlow Regional Youth Service 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.

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.

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

Carlow Regional Youth Service has included the risk of harm to a child as a new category in the organisations Risk Management Policy & Procedures. A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to identify potential areas of harm and to implement measures to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management Process.

Risk Identified	Procedures & Measures in place to manage risks identified
A child or young person could be harmed if an unsuitable person was recruited as a staff member or volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRYS Recruitment Policy & Procedures • CRYS Staff Handbook • CRYS Induction Procedures • CRYS Code of Behaviour For Staff & Volunteers • CRYS Volunteer Policy • CRYS Student Placement Policy
Children could be harmed if staff or volunteers failed to recognise or report a disclosure or concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRYS Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures • Child Protection & Awareness and Tusla Children First training is mandatory • CRYS Incident Reporting Procedures
A child or young person may be harmed by being bullied or abused by another child or young person during activities, after activities, on the premises or via social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear process in place of contracting/setting ground rules with all groups • Code of behaviour in place for children & young people • CRYS Anti-Bullying Procedures • CRYS Complaints Policy & Procedures
A child may be harmed if the organisation failed to have in place robust processes for planning activities, residential programmes, trips and events at local, regional, national or international level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity programmes agreed in advance and communicated with parents and young people • Risk assessments are carefully conducted at all levels and for all activities • Explicit consent is secured from young people and parents • Clear agreements on expectations and acceptable behaviour are made in advance of all activities • Insurance cover extended for all planned activities • Ratios and supervision standards clearly set and communicated
Risk of harm to children and young people such as accessing inappropriate material, being targeted by inappropriate adults or personnel or cyberbullying during online activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group contracts in place for children & young people on use of social media • Cyber Health and Education information incorporated into programmes • Keeping Safe posters visible at activity • CRYS Anti-Bullying Procedures • CRYS Incident Reporting Procedures • CRYS Complaints Policy & Procedure • CRYS Social Media Policy
A child or young person may be harmed due to failure to manage multi-purpose situations appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRYS Health & Safety Statement & Procedures in place • CRYS Risk Assessments of all activities & spaces • Supervision of children and young people maintained at all times • Scheduling and planning takes account of minimising and managing cross-over of services • CRYS Incident Reporting Procedures

6 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 3rd March 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ Chairperson

Signed: _____ C.E.O.

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