

# SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



## 1. NAME OF SERVICE:

### Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service (W.S.T.C.Y.S.)

W.S.T.C.Y.S. is a community based youth work organisation operating an Integrated Youth Service Model which provides services to children, young people and adult service users in purpose built youth centres, community houses and community facilities at the heart of the community, and through outreach in Waterford City, Waterford County and part of South Tipperary.

## 2. THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE ARE:

**Youth Club Development:** Establishing and supporting volunteer led youth clubs to work with children and young people across the region.

**Community Youth Projects:** Community Youth Projects engage with the local community to identify and respond to the needs of young people in their area.

**Youth Justice Work:** These projects support young people to divert from crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Youth Information Services:** Youth Information Services are provided at 3 locations in the region.

**Residential Centre:** Affordable, short-term residential programmes and facilities are available at Woodstown Residential & Activity Centre to young people their local project or youth club.

**Education:** W.S.T.C.Y.S. supports the XLC Project to provide young people who are out of school with access to education so that they can complete their leaving certificate.

**One to One Support:** For young people with additional needs, the organisation delivers tailored support on an individual basis where appropriate.

**Comhairle Na nÓg:** W.S.T.C.Y.S. facilitates Waterford Comhairle Na nÓg (Child & Youth Council)

### OTHER SERVICES:

**In addition to the services delivered directly to young people listed above, W.S.T.C.Y.S. delivers the following services to vulnerable adults:**

**Substances Misuse Projects:** The organisation currently delivers seven Community Based Drugs Initiatives and two Drugs Outreach Services responding to the specific issues at individual, family and community levels, created by substance misuse.

**Local Training Initiatives:** W.S.T.C.Y.S. operates two L.T.I.'s supporting adults who are marginalised, socially isolated or in recovery.

**LGBT+ Health Support Project:** This project provides support for adults in the community and signposts healthcare pathways.

## 3. PRINCIPLES:

Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service has a comprehensive list of policies and procedures as well as practice approaches that are committed to the following principles of best practice in Child Protection and Welfare as laid out in Children First 2017.

- ➔ 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/guardians 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/guardians 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/guardians and families. Where there is conflict, the child's welfare must come first.
- ➔ Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of children.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL HARM TO CHILDREN WHILST AVAILING OF OUR SERVICES:

Waterford & South Tipperary Community 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 identify measures to be implemented to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management Process. The risks and how they will be managed are as follows:

### RISK IDENTIFIED

**A child or young person could be harmed if an unsuitable person was recruited as a staff member or volunteer**

### PROCEDURES AND MEASURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK IDENTIFIED

- WSTCYS Recruitment Policy & Procedures
- WSTCYS Garda Vetting Policy & Procedures
- WSTCYS Induction Policies & procedures
- WSTCYS Supervision Policy & Procedures
- WSTCYS Code of Behaviour for Staff & Volunteers
- WSTCYS Disciplinary Policy & Procedures
- WSTCYS Lone Working policy
- WSTCYS Policy on One to One Work

# SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT (CONTD)



**Children could be harmed if staff or volunteers failed to recognise or report a disclosure or concern**

WSTCYS Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures  
Child Protection & Awareness and HSEland Children First training is mandatory  
WSTCYS Incident Reporting Policy & 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**

Clear process in place of contracting/setting ground rules with all groups  
Code of behaviour in place for children & young people  
WSTCYS Anti Bullying Policy & Procedures  
WSTCYS 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 levels**

**All activities are planned carefully in advance to ensure risks are avoided**

- 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**

Group contracts in place for children & young people on use of social media.  
Cyber Health and Education workshops incorporated into programmes  
Keeping You Safe poster visible at activity level  
Cyber Safety Poster visible in activity & I.T. spaces  
WSTCYS Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures  
WSTCYS Incident Reporting Policy & Procedures  
WSTCYS Complaints Policy & Procedure in place

**A child or young person may be harmed due to failure to manage multi-purpose situations appropriately**

WSTCYS Health & Safety Policy & Procedures in place  
WSTCYS 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

## 5. PROCEDURES:

Our 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 and young people while they are availing of our services.

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers or volunteers by a child or young person while availing of our service.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children and young people.
- Procedure for provision of child protection and safeguarding training and information for staff and volunteers, 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:

Our service is committed to the implementation of this Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while availing of our services. This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of W.S.T.C.Y.S. on the 9th January 2025 and will be reviewed bi-annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Dylan Roche

Dylan Roche, Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of W.S.T.C.Y.S.

Date: 9th January 2025

### FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

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