



## **Child Safeguarding Statement: March 2025**

Ballymun Regional Youth Resource recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all young people and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being and will work in partnership with statutory/local agencies, parents/caregivers to do this. All staff/support staff/volunteers/students have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

Ballymun Regional Youth Resource (BRYR) is community-based youth service working with young people aged 10-24yrs. BRYR's mission is to empower young people from Ballymun and surrounding areas to reach their full potential, by putting in place a range of resources that will support them to make a happy, healthy and successful transition to adulthood, promoting health, well-being and resilience at all stages of their development.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Board of Directors of BRYR has agreed to the Child Safeguarding Statement as set out in this document.

1. **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is** – BRYR Youth Service Manager
2. **The Deputy Designated Liaison Persons (DDL) are:**
  - A. BRYR Facilities Manager
  - B. BRYR Project Leaders
3. The Board of Directors of BRYR recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of community life and must be reflected in the organisations policies, procedures, practices and activities. Ballymun Regional Youth Resource will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

### **We will:**

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of young people is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations

- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to young people and protect staff/support staff/volunteers/students from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
- Develop a practice of openness with parents/caregivers and encourage their involvement in the services of BRYR
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

4. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff/support staff/volunteers/students and their suitability to work with young people, BRYR adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars. All staff/volunteers/students who work directly with young people are vetted in advance of starting their work in BRYR.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff/volunteers/students in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) BRYR will:
  - Provide each member of staff/support staff/volunteers/students with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensure the Child Safeguarding Statement is publicly displayed
  - Ensure every member of staff/support staff/volunteers/students completes the Online Introduction to Children First and receives certification
  - Encourages Board of Directors members to avail of relevant training
  - BRYR will maintain records of all staff/support staff/volunteers/students and Board member training
- In relation to the reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all staff/support staff/volunteers/students are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First Act 2015. For mandated employees they must report concerns to Tusla either on their own or with the DLP or the DDLP's.
- In BRYR, the Board has appointed the Youth Service Manager DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a young person while attending BRYR or any of its services. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the centre's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.

5. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

**This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Directors on:**

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Signed: Miriam Brown

Miriam Brown  
**Chairperson, Board of Directors**

Date: 28-4-25

Signed: Geraldine Comerford

Geraldine Comerford  
**BRYR Youth Service Manager**



## Appendix 1

### Written Risk Assessment of BRYR in relation to Child Safeguarding Statement

#### 1. List of activities

- Reco based Group Activities – open & closed groups
- Reco based drop in services
- Street work group activities
- Reco based one to one sessions
- Street work one to one sessions
- Sports activities –off site
- Street education sessions
- Parks Programme (Summer & Halloween)
- Summer Programmes
- Day Trips
- Overnight / Residential trips
- Workshops
- Social Media Platforms

#### 2. The project has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

- Risk of harm to the young person being harmed by another young person
- Risk of harm to the young person being harmed by a member of staff/support staff/ within BRYR
- Risk of harm to the young person being harmed by a volunteer/student within BRYR
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of a young person
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship with a young person
- Risk of harm caused by a member of staff/support staff/volunteers/ students communicating in an inappropriate manner on social media
- Risk associated with activities, outings, trips

#### 3. The project has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –

- All staff/support staff/volunteers/students are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- All staff/support staff/volunteers/students are trained in Children First, child safeguarding awareness training and all matters relating to child protection
- Recruitment procedure includes Garda vetting in line with the National Vetting Bureau (Child and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016
- References are checked for all staff/support staff/volunteers/students in advance of commencement

- A Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is in place

BRYR have a policy in relation to supervision of young people in all areas including:

- Critical Incident Management Policy
- Accident and injury reporting procedure
- First aid policy in Health and Safety Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Parental permissions is sought and documented for all activities and outings

**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "Harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Directors has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to BRYR and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, BRYR has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the BRYR Youth Service Manager on behalf of the Board of Directors on the 31st March 2025. The Child Safeguarding Statement was approved at the Board meeting held on 31st March 2025 and signed by the Chairperson and Youth Service Manager.