



Child Safeguarding Statement: April 2018

Ballymun Regional Youth Resource (BRYR) recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. All staff and volunteers 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 is community based youth service working with young people aged 10-24yrs. BRYR's mission is to empower young people from Ballymun & 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 Management of Ballymun Regional Youth Resource has agreed the Children Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Christine Lodge(Manager)

2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Persons are (Deputy DLP):

- A. Eimear Whitfield – Facilities Manager
- B. Angie Birch – Project Leader
- C. Lynsey Holmes – Project Leader
- D. Denise Mc Donnell – Project Leader

3. The Board of Management of BRYR recognises that Child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of community life and must be reflected in all of the centres policies, procedures, practices and activities In its 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 Children 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 Children and protect workers 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 encourage parental involvement in the services of BRYR.

- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with Child protection matters.

4. The following procedures/measures are in place:

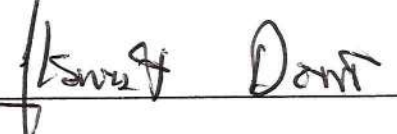
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children , BRYR adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars. All staff and volunteers who work directly with children 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 in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) BRYR will:
 - Provide each member of staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensure that all new staff are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensure every staff member completes the Online Introduction to Children First and completes Certification
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - BRYR will maintain records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. All BRYR staff are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First. For mandated staff they have to report concerns to Tusla either on their own or with the DLP - Christine Lodge

- In BRYR the Board has appointed the abovenamed 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 for harm to a child 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 annually 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 Management on 30th April 2018.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 

Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 30/04/18

Date: 30/4/18

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

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

- Risk of harm to the child being harmed by another child
- Risk of harm to the child being harmed by a member of staff within BRYR
- Risk of harm to the child being harmed by a volunteer within BRYR
- Risk of harm to the child from a family member/ guardian
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of a child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship with a child
- Risk of harm caused by a member of staff/volunteer communicating in an inappropriate manner on social media
- Risk associated with activities, outings, trips
- Risk of harm to the child out of their chosen lifestyle/behaviour choices

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

- All staff are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- All staff are trained in Children First, Child safeguarding awareness training and all matters relating Child Protection.
- Recruitment procedure includes Garda vetting in line with the National Vetting Bureau (Child and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 was commenced in April 2016.

- References are checked for all personnel in advance of commencement.
- A Children First policy & Child Protection policy is in place.

BRYR have a policy in relation to supervision of child in all areas including


- Critical incident management policy.
- Accident and injury reporting procedure.
- First aid policy in Health and Safety Policy.
- Social Media policy for all staff employed.
- Social Media policy for all volunteers.
- 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

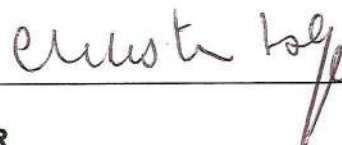
“Harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management 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 Manager on behalf of the Board of Management on the 30th of April 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of BRYR's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 30/04/18

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 30/04/18

Manager of BRYR