

Foróige's Child Safeguarding Statement 2023 - 2025



1. OUR PURPOSE, SERVICES AND PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM HARM

Foróige is a national youth development organisation involving mostly young people aged 10 to 18. Across Ireland we offer opportunities for involvement for all young people in general youth work activities and structures as well as providing more targeted services and interventions engaging more vulnerable children and young people and their families. You will find us in local communities right across Ireland and online where our adult volunteers and staff work with and support children and young people to lead happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

We believe profoundly in the potential of every young person. We will always put young people first, keeping them safe, building their confidence, competence and capabilities. We believe that the welfare and protection from harm of children and young people is of paramount importance in everything we do. Our staff and adult volunteers take all reasonable care to ensure that all children and young people involved in our clubs, groups, projects, services, programmes, School Completion Programmes, one to one work, family support services and large youth events are protected from harm and abuse of any kind. Our commitment to safeguarding children and young people in Foróige is grounded in our philosophy which outlines the importance of children and young people being treated with respect, listened to and having their views taken into consideration.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

Foróige has completed an assessment of the potential for harm to children and young people that are engaged in every aspect of the organisation and maintains a comprehensive risk register in relation to this. Harm in this context is related to assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child or young person that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child or young person's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child or young person. It also includes the risk of harm that may occur if a person fails to recognise harm or report knowledge of or concern about harm to a young person. This register identifies all risks of harm to children and young people in Foróige and lists the procedures, policies, programmes and practices that mitigate against and help reduce or eliminate these risks. This Risk Register is available on request. To the right is a list of the main areas of risk identified within the register and the list of the main procedures in Foróige for mitigating against these risks.

Overall Mitigating Procedures in Place Relating to All Risks	Risk of Harm* Identified	Mitigating Procedures in Place Relating to a Specific Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Child Protection Policy and Guidelines Foróige's Charter of Rights Code of Good Practice for Working with Young People Codes of Conduct for Board, Staff and Volunteers Staff and Volunteer Recruitment Policy and Procedures and Training Foróige Supervision and Overnight Events Guidelines 	Risk of Assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Assessment for Venues, Events and Trips Group and Individual Behaviour Contracts
	Risk of Ill Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foróige's Be Healthy, Be Happy Programme Complaints Policy and Procedures Foróige Against Bullying Programme
	Risk of Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety Policy and Statements Foróige Insurance Information Booklet Foróige's Be Healthy, Be Happy Programme
	Risk of Sexual Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foróige's Sexual Health Promotion Policy and Programme Foróige's REAL U Programme
	Risk of Online Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foróige's Online Safety Programme Foróige's Social Media Guidelines Foróige Against Bullying Programme

*This harm could be perpetrated by other young people, adult volunteers, staff or other professionals, family members or members of the public

3. PROCEDURES

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following Foróige procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our services:

- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff 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 the people in Foróige who are mandated persons
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct, against staff or volunteers, of a child or young person availing of our services
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available upon request.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Volunteers, staff and management in:

NAME OF CLUB/PROJECT/SERVICE AND LOCATION

committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while availing of our services.

Foróige's Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 31st October 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Miriam Ryan
Director of Targeted Services and Safeguarding

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FOR QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT

1. NAME OF PERSON Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

2. NAME OF PROJECT/SERVICE ETC

3. EMAIL