



Dear Chief Executive/Directors

As the parent department with responsibility for both Tusla and the youth sector, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs is actively working on innovations in response to addressing the impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable young people.

One of the critical impacts arising from Covid-19 on vulnerable young people is the staffing shortages being experienced in children's residential centres. These essential services are necessary to provide care and support to young people in home-based environments.

DCYA, in consultation with key stakeholders, is seeking the support of relevant youth organisations and services to support service continuity for these young people through developing additional temporary staffing supports for residential services.

Relevant youth organisations and services have been identified based on geographic proximity to these children's residential centres. You will receive communication from Tusla seeking Expressions of Interest from qualified youth workers to work on a temporary basis in children's residential centres. While this process is entirely voluntary at an individual level, DCYA is encouraging consideration of this initiative as a means of providing the temporary, urgent support needed by Tusla to serve this particular, extremely vulnerable, cohort of children and young people. Having considered this request, DCYA would appreciate if this was brought to the attention of relevant staff within your organisation.

We hope you will facilitate any suitably qualified members of your staff who may wish to volunteer for deployment to undertake this important work. As mentioned in previous communications from this department, DCYA intends to continue funding for registered youth organisations in line with agreed allocations. All staff who volunteer for deployment will remain in your employ, while they contribute to the safety and wellbeing of children in residential care.

The relevant forms can be accessed [here](#), for your convenience.

Your approval is the first step and is a key part of the application process. Your approval should, of course, have regard to the current work in your own service and the degree to which this can continue in the event that staff members wish to volunteer for temporary deployment. Previous correspondence from the Youth Affairs Unit of DCYA addressed these considerations.



Where staff wish to volunteer, they should apply through the dedicated [Tusla portal](#) and provide the information requested there. If matched with a residential centre, youth workers will receive the details of their temporary deployment and, as their employer, you will be notified.

We would like to thank you for your support with this initiative which signals clear sectoral partnership in responding to the needs of young people at this critical time.

Yours sincerely,

Laura McGarrigle
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Youth, Youth Justice,
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Conor Rowley
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Governance Division