

1. Mandate

This group originated from the Children First Implementation Committee for the Youth Work Sector, formed by DCYA, to support the youth sector in preparing for the implementation of the Children First Act 2015 in a consistent manner across all DCYA funded youth organisations. This committee was dissolved by DCYA in March 2020. It was agreed by committee members at this final meeting that a new group would be formed, without the involvement of DCYA (DCEDIY from Oct. 2020), and this committee was established.

This committee's purpose is to continue supporting the ongoing implementation and review of Children First in the youth work sector and to identify emerging safeguarding and child protection needs within the youth work sector and potential responses to these (where required).

2. Scope

The Child Safeguarding Committee for the Youth Work Sector (the "committee") will support the practice of child safeguarding and child protection as it relates to Children First in the youth work sector. This committee is intended as a forum for key stakeholders in the youth work sector to identify good practices and areas of concern in the continued implementation of Children First and protecting children and young people from harm (as defined in Children First 2015).

3. Membership

The committee represents the youth work sector. Members will come from a range of specialities to ensure all groups are represented, and it is reflective of the sector. It is committed to recognising, understanding and respecting the unique perspectives and backgrounds of all groups within the youth work sector. Having diverse and inclusive membership is necessary to ensure that safeguarding and child protection is considered from various perspectives.

The chair of the committee agrees to convene meetings, produce minutes of meetings, act as a conduit to DCEDIY where necessary, produce an annual report and provide opportunities for youth organisations to feed into the committee with queries or feedback, including expressions of interest in representation or membership of the committee. Committee members agree to attend quarterly meetings, share information and best practices in relation to Children First and provide input on specific issues where a response is required to address emerging trends or concerns in the sector. Tusla Children First Information and Advice Officers are invited to attend quarterly meetings and provide advice and guidance in relation to Children First.

Composition

Organisation	Role
BeLonG To	Committee Member
Child Protection Consultant Louise Monaghan	Committee Member
City of Dublin Youth Services	Committee Member
Crosscare	Committee Member
Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB (Youth Services)	Committee Member
Foroige	Committee Member
Irish Wheelchair Association	Committee Member
NYCI National Child Protection Programme Manager	Committee Chair

Organisation	Role
Scouting Ireland	Committee Member
Tusla Children First Information & Advice Service	Tusla Children First Information & Advice Officer
Tusla Children First Information & Advice Service	Tusla Children First Information & Advice Officer
Youth Work Ireland	Committee Member

4. Objectives

- To review and share practices in the sector for taking a whole organisational approach to safeguarding and child protection to include policy and procedures, garda vetting, appointment and training of designated liaison persons, reporting child protection and welfare concerns, obligations of Boards of Management and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure oversight.
- To consider the training needs of the youth work sector as it relates to Children First and keeping children safe from harm, including feedback to the committee on child protection awareness training (where necessary) and to broadly discuss the requirements and provision of training in the sector.
- To communicate Children First developments to committee members and the sector, including developments in training, resources, commencement of legislation and accompanying implications, Child Safeguarding Statements, mandated reporting and overall trends and issues arising.
- To discuss any challenges and developments relating to Children First as they relate to the broader youth work sector and to utilise the committee as a representative sectoral platform.

5. Frequency of Meetings

It is agreed that meetings will be held quarterly. Additional meetings can be requested when required to address specific issues.

6. Duration of meetings

It is agreed that meetings will run for 1.5 hours.

7. Decision-Making

All decisions will be made by consensus of the committee.

8. Reporting

Where necessary, NYC1 will be the vehicle for communications with DCEDIY with regard to issues arising in the sector.

A brief end-of-year summary of the activities of the committee will be communicated to the youth sector through NYC1's website via the Child Protection Programme page and will also be shared with committee members. The report should include information on:

- Number of meetings held
- Membership
- Objectives
- Accomplishments
- Issues Being Discussed
- Contact info.

9. Review Period & Date

It is agreed that these Terms of Reference will be reviewed at a period of every 2 years.

10. Approval & Acceptance of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference underwent a process of review in 2024 and were approved and accepted by the committee on 13th February 2024.

Date to commence next review: March 2026