

Waterford Youth Arts - Child Protection Summary

WYA has a comprehensive Child Protection Policy, which is available for any parent / guardian to read. This is a one-page summary. All staff and volunteers at WYA receive training in child protection procedures and are all Garda vetted.

Waterford Youth Arts are committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child/young person is paramount. We will adhere to the 'Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children', published by the Department of Health and Children.

We have implemented procedures covering:

- Code of behavior for all staff;
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse;
- Confidentiality;
- Recruitment and selecting staff;
- Managing and supervising staff;
- Involvement of primary carers;
- Allegations of misconduct or abuse by staff;
- Complaints and comments;
- Procedures relating to incidents and accidents.

Within WYA the designated person (Child protection officer) is Ollie Breslin tel. 879377 (daytime) and 086-1759188. Ollie is the artistic director of WYA and is the person responsible for dealing with any issues related to child protection and welfare in the organisation and his role is to respond to any concerns that may be identified. The deputy-designated person is Helen Rafferty tel. 086-8197883, Helen is on the WYA Management Committee and she has also been appointed to cover this role when the designated person is unavailable. It will be made very clear to all staff, parents / carers /responsible adults and children / young people who the designated person and the deputy are and how to contact them.

If we have concerns about the welfare of the child/young person we will:

Respond to the needs of the child or young person Inform the primary carers on an ongoing basis unless this action puts the child or young person at further risk Where there are child protection and welfare concerns we are obliged to pass these on to the duty social worker and, in an emergency, the gardai In the event of a complaint against a member of staff we will immediately ensure the safety of the child/young person and inform parents/carers/responsible adults as appropriate.

Complaints and comments procedure

WYA has a complaints and comments procedure and primary carers, children/young people and staff can contact the Administrator Cathy Hanrahan by post or by email cathy@waterforyoutharts.com post to: WYA, The Arch, Barrack Street, Waterford. Complaints/comments will be responded to within one month The Administrator has responsibility for directing complaints/comments to the appropriate person. Verbal complaints will be logged and responded to within one month