

# YouthINK Child Safeguarding Statement

## Section 1 – YouthINK information

**YouthINK** is a not for profit creative arts mentorship programme based in the Republic of Ireland and Boston US. YouthINK provides various creative arts activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in organised activities. Organised events involved the provision of creative arts mentorship that require attendance at weekend events and overnight trips. YouthINK is a staffed organisation that provides its participants with opportunities to participate in the creative arts between the ages of 13-18 years.

- Name: *YouthINK*
- Creative Arts: *Film, Production, Animation, Writing, Production Design & Others*
- Location (National/Local level): *National/ International*
- Size (Number of staff/members/clubs): *100*
- Activities: *Creative Arts*

## Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

**YouthINK** is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within Creative Arts. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in Creative Arts.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's Creative Arts experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in Creative Arts are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect and that the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children's Creative Arts should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - YouthINK Creative Arts should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of Creative Arts and should be encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. A child-centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

**Section 3 - Risk Assessment**

YouthINK’s written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of the potential risk of harm, and the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p><b>Club and Coaching Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of mentoring qualification.</li> <li>— Supervision issues.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities.</li> <li>— Behavioural Issues.</li> <li>— Lack of gender balance amongst coaches</li> <li>— No guidance for travelling &amp; away trips</li> <li>— Risk of harm of sexual abuse of a child by a volunteer/member of staff while away on an overnight trip</li> <li>— Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— mentor education policy/Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Supervision policy/Coach education policy</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Use of Images policy</li> <li>— Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— mentor education policy / Supervision policy.</li> <li>— Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Travel/Away trip policy, Code of Ethics, Code of conducts for mentors and parents</li> <li>— Safeguarding Policy / Complaints &amp; disciplinary policy</li> </ul>

<p><b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent</li> <li>— Complaints not being dealt with seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.</li> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.</li> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reporting Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</li> <li>— No DLP appointed.</li> <li>— Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.</li> <li>— Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/Behaviour.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1</li> <li>— Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Use of Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unauthorised access to designated children’s play &amp; practice areas &amp; to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.....</li> <li>— Unauthorised exit from creative areas.</li> <li>— Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.</li> <li>— Missing or found child on site.</li> <li>— Children sharing facilities with adults</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Supervision policy / mentor Education.</li> <li>— Supervision policy / Coach Education.</li> <li>— Photography policy and use of devices in private zones.</li> <li>— Missing or found child policy.</li> <li>— Safeguarding policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment of inappropriate people.</li> <li>— Lack of clarity on roles.</li> <li>— Unqualified or untrained people in role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Recruitment policy.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors.</li> <li>— No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording of activities.</li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications by under 18’s</li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications with under 18’s.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy.</li> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Behaviour (distribute).</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Use of Images policy</li> <li>— Communications policy / Code of conduct</li> <li>— Communications policy / Code of conduct</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Risk of Harm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Harm not being recognised.</li> <li>— Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Visitor to Child.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— General behavioural issues.</li><li>— Issues of Bullying.</li><li>— Vetting of staff/volunteers.</li><li>— Issues of Online Safety</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Code of Conduct.</li><li>— Anti-Bullying policy.</li><li>— Recruitment policy / Vetting policy.</li><li>— Social Media / Online Safety policy.</li></ul>
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The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 05/03/2023

#### **Section 4 – 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 our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

**YouthINK** has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person (Creative Director)

***Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.***

Pádraig J Dunne and Mary O’Connor are the relevant persons for YouthINK, and they have also mandated persons as set out in the Children First Act 2015. Pádraig (086) 0592511 Mary (087) 2934467

#### **Section 5 – Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. YouthINK is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

Please note the following:



YOUTHINK Child Safeguarding Statement

- That all volunteers and staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency & members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place at all YouthINK activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 11/04/2024

Signed: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2.  Date: **11/04/2023**

*(On behalf of YouthINK)*

Name: **Mary O'Connor | Pádraig J Dunne** Phone no: **086 0592511 | 087 2934467**

*For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the **Relevant Person Pádraig J Dunne** ([padraig@youth-ink.com](mailto:padraig@youth-ink.com)) and Mary O'Connor ([mary@youth-ink.com](mailto:mary@youth-ink.com))*