# Child Safeguarding Statement

**Child Safeguarding Statement of UCC Youth Theatre**

1. Name of service being provided: **UCC Youth Theatre.**
2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

UCC Youth Theatre provides weekly workshops in theatre practice, performance opportunities with associated rehearsals, and related activities such theatre festival attendance.

UCC Youth Theatre is a programme within The Department of Theatre, UCC. We work with young people aged 11 – 21 and carry out a range of youth theatre related activities including:

* Drama Workshops
* Theatre Productions
* Rehearsals
* Trips away/International Exchanges

UCC Youth Theatre is committed to a young-person centred approach in our work. We undertake to provide a safe environment and positive experience, the welfare of the young person being of paramount importance.

We will adhere to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*.

UCC Youth Theatre adheres to the UCC Child Protection Policy to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspects of the youth theatre. The youth theatre has also developed additional child protection policies and procedures directly related to the work of the youth theatre which act as an addendum to the main UCC Child Protection Policy. The Department of Theatre, UCC recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of members and staff/volunteers. Policies are targeted at all adults involved in the youth theatre, be they staff or volunteers. Parents and members will be informed of relevant policies and procedures. Youth theatre members will be informed of procedures and policies as they relate to their participation.

1. Risk Assessment

Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows: ‘harm means in relation to a child– (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or, (b) sexual abuse of the child.’

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

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|  | Risk identified | | Procedure in place to manage identified risk |
| 1 | Risk of harm not being recognised by youth theatre personnel (UCC Staff, leaders or volunteers) | | Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm |
| 2 | Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by youth theatre personnel | | All personnel have procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla outlined. Including information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Persons |
| 3 | Risk of young person being harmed by youth theatre personnel | | Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers to work with children including procedure for Garda Vetting.  Code of Behaviour for staff/students/volunteers |
| 4 | Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person | | Anti-bullying policy  Group Contract for Members |
| 5 | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people | | Policy on Adult/Young People Ratios  Code of Behaviour for staff/students/volunteers |
| 6 | Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between youth theatre personnel and a young person | Policy on Communications with young people  Code of Behaviour for staff/staff/volunteers | |
| 7 | Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people | Policy on Use of Images | |
| 8 | Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people’s personal data. | UCC Data Protection Policy | |
| 9 | Risk of harm due to inappropriate exposure to material (script, video, performance) as part of regular YT practice | Thorough review (where appropriate) of material by staff prior to YT member engagement | |

1. **Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in line *with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are availing of our service:

* Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child/ young person availing of our service – UCC
* Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons; We have no Mandated Persons working within UCC Youth Theatre. Our DLP is Nora Geary, UCC Corporate Secretary
* Procedure for appointing a relevant person. The Relevant person of UCC Youth Theatre is Fionn Woodhouse
* Complaints Policy/Procedures – UCC
* Disciplinary/Appeals Procedures – UCC
* Procedures for Trips Away/ Residentials – Youth Theatre Policy
* Policy on including Members aged 18 or over – Youth Theatre Policy
* Policy on Informing Parents – Youth Theatre Policy
* Guidelines on Dealing with Disruptive Behaviour – Youth Theatre Policy

All procedures listed are available upon request.

1. **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service 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 service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 31st Sept 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Fionn Woodhouse (Provider)

Fionn Woodhouse, Department of Theatre, University College Cork. [fionn.woodhouse@ucc.ie](mailto:fionn.woodhouse@ucc.ie), 021 4904359

For queries, please contact Fionn Woodhouse, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.