

Children First Child Safeguarding Risk Register of Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service CLG

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Sphere 17 RYS Child Safeguarding Risk Register

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SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW

Introduction

A risk management system is defined according to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, 2009 as:

“An effective risk management system identifies and assesses risk, decides on appropriate responses and then provides assurances that the chosen responses are effective”

As of the 11th of December 2017 the Children first Act 2015 was fully implemented by the Minister for Children and Youth affairs. Under the Children First act 2015, Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service (RYS) CLG are providing a relevant service and is obliged to undertake a risk assessment. This considers the potential harm to Children while they are in our care.

Section 11(1)(a) of the Children first act 2015 defines risk as “any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service”. Section 2 of the Act defines harm as follows:

“harm means in relation to a child -

- (a) Assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a 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, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstances or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.”

The risk assessment process is intended to enable an organisation to:

- Identify potential risks/harm
- Develop policies and procedure’s to minimise risk by responding in a timely manner to potential risks
- Review whether adequate precautions have been taken to eliminate or reduce these risks

Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service (RYS) CLG recognises that an effective risk management framework is a key element of effective governance and internal control within organisations in the voluntary and community sector. Indeed, the need for formal

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risk management processes have been formalised through best practice codes such as the 'Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland' and the 'Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies'.

This risk management framework provides management, Volunteers, staff, funders, young people and parents and other stakeholders with assurances that the organisational risks are identified and appropriately managed on an ongoing basis.

Risk Identification

Risks are identified within the different areas of the organisations operations; risk identification is delegated to the appropriate persons within these areas.

Risk Assessment

Risk is measured in terms of:

- Likelihood or probability
- Consequences or impact

Probability / Likelihood of Occurrence

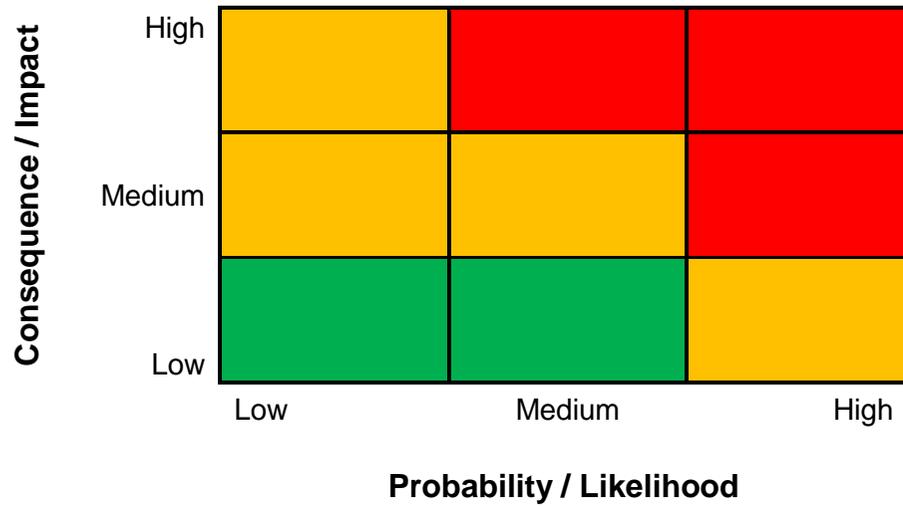
- What is the chance that this risk is going to happen
- Measured on a scale from low to high

Consequences / Impact of Occurrence

- If it does occur, what will be the likely impact on the organisation?
- Measured on a scale from low to high

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Ranking of Risk - "Traffic Lights"



Consequence / Impact Scoring

Low
Medium
High

Likelihood / Probability Scoring

Low
Medium
High

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Treatment of Risk

Risks are treated according to the three T's as follows:

- Tolerate** – accept the risk (*Risks that are low and require no further action*)
- Treat** – controls to address problems (*Manage and contain the risk to an acceptable level*)
 - Reduce – likelihood of occurrence
 - Reduce – consequences of occurrence
- Terminate** – withdraw from activity (Where the only appropriate way of managing the risk is to terminate it)

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SECTION TWO: Risk Register

Introduction

The Risk Register is the primary tool used to support the risk management process. It is used to record risks, to identify current controls, to allocate ownership of the risk and controls to the best placed individual and to identify future actions for the management of risks.

The Risk Register captures the following:

- Risk Number
- Risk Description
- Controls
- Likelihood Score
- Impact Score
- Risk Owner
- Immediate / Future Action

Review

The Risk Management Process and the Risk Register are subject to at least an annual review by the board and the senior management team.

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Child Safeguarding Risk Register

Risk No.	Risk Description	Controls	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	Risk Owner	Immediate / Future Action
1	Harm caused by member of staff ¹ engaging in inappropriate or abusive behaviour with young person.	Detailed recruitment procedures including: reference checks, Garda vetting and induction for all staff. Child protection training for all staff (Tusla e-learning programme). Clarity of roles (job descriptions) for staff. Code of behaviour for staff Child protection policy and procedures including Child Safeguarding Statement.	Low	High	Board	Ongoing induction and training for new staff. Specific training for staff in relation to threshold criteria for reporting. Another Project Leader appointed as deputy Designated Liaison Person. Review and update child protection policy in light of Child First legislation.
2	Harm caused by other young people engaging in inappropriate or abusive behaviour with young person.	Induction to service for YP covering core values and expectations. Group contracts. Informing young people of child protection policy and procedures. Appropriate supervision by trained staff. Staff to use agreed techniques/ procedures to de-escalate situations and manage challenging	Medium	High	Management and Staff	Young people made aware of Safeguarding Statement. Anti-bullying policy for young people developed.

¹ Staff refers to all employees, volunteers, scheme staff, students on placement

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		behaviour. Anti-bullying and friendship awareness activities.				
3	Harm caused to young person due to accessing inappropriate online content, or inappropriate or abusive communications.	Firewall and content filter in place in Dublin 17 centres. IT education/ awareness programmes. Supervised youth space. Regular engagement with young people by staff about safe online behaviour. IT policy and code of behaviour for staff. Staff training.	Medium	Medium	Management and Staff	Develop online safety policy for young people. Install firewall and content filtering system in Sphere 17 - Kilbarrack
4.	Harm caused to young person by external facilitators or other (non-staff) adults engaging in inappropriate or abusive behaviour.	All external facilitators work with Sphere 17 staff and/or to agreed Sphere 17 policies and procedures. No unsupervised access. CCTV or site security in place for all centres. CSS on display. Restricted access in centres and all visitors to youth centres/area met by a staff member.	Low	High		Develop interagency working procedures to cover child safeguarding.
5.	Harm caused by inappropriate behaviour on overnight residentials and/or off-site activities.	Policy guidelines for trips and residential activities. Secured parental consent. Staff planning. Preparation sessions with young people. Risk assessment of activity and travel. Adequate staff supervision	Low	High	Management and staff	Update policy guidelines for residential/trips.

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		for duration of trip.				
6.	Harm caused by inappropriate or abusive behaviour during one-2-one/ individual work / counselling	Recruitment procedures, staff training and code of behaviour. Clear guidelines and expectations for all staff regarding work with individual young people. Suitable space and adequate time provided for work with individual young people	Low	High	Board and Management	Develop policy on One-2-one work with young people Listen project counsellors to be included in Child Safeguarding training
7.	Harm caused by non-reporting of concerns due to risk of harm not being recognised by staff/volunteers	Induction, code of behaviour and child protection training for all staff. Staff certified to deliver NYCI Child Protection and Awareness Training. DLP holds certificate in Children Protection and Welfare. Circulation of safeguarding statement to all staff and on display to the public.	Low	High	Management All staff	Review safeguarding statement and risk register annually. Ongoing CP training including Tusla e-learning module for new and current staff and DLP(s).
8.	Harm caused by inappropriate management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff.	Clearly defined CP and HR policies and procedures that include the role and responsibilities in relation to child safeguarding, and the management of allegations of misconduct or abuse against staff.	Low	High	Board	Review and update child protection policy Induction/training of new deputy DLP

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		Required training completed by DLP				
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In our Risk Register the priority risks with a High Red Impact Score are identified as:

- Risk no. 2 – Harm caused by other young people engaging in inappropriate or abusive behaviour with young person.
(Risk Owner: Management and Staff)

As such, regular monitoring and review of the controls in this area, as well as progressing the stated future actions, will be the priority focus for the identified risk owners.

The Board of Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service regards the proactive management of child safeguarding risk within the organisation as key to meeting our stated aims, objectives and intended outcomes. The child safeguarding risk register, as the primary tool in identifying and managing child safeguarding risks in our service, will be adequately resourced and monitored by the Board via the Governance and Services Oversight Committee (GSOC) in line with Boards ongoing commitment to excellence in both Governance and Service Provision.