

An Óige (Irish Youth Hostel Association)

Child Safeguarding Statement

An Óige and the nature of our Service

An Óige provides simple hostel accommodation and activities to young people, principally as part of groups led by school and other youth organisations. An Óige also provides walk and activity leaders to support groups doing Gaisce and other activity programmes. In addition, An Óige runs a number of regional and activity groups of members, not specifically aimed at young people, but at which young people may be present.

An Oige relates to children in a number of different ways:

- Accommodation of children as part of a family (supervised)
- Accommodation of children/activities as part of a group (supervised)
- Accommodation/activities of Gaisce Groups (supervised)
- Children attending Interest Group/Regional Group events (usually supervised)

In addition, An Oige provides services through third-parties, particularly franchise hostels.

Our Commitment to keep Children safe from harm

An Óige is committed to protecting children from harm. Management, volunteers and staff recognise that the welfare of children is paramount and our services endeavour to safeguard children. An Óige aims to create a safe and healthy environment for any young people with which we work.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*, the *Children First National Guidance* and TUSLA's *Guidance on Developing a Child Protection Statement*.

Our Risk Assessment

Risk Identified	Procedure to Manage Risk
Allegation of abuse or misconduct against staff member/volunteer	An Óige's Child Protection Policy clearly outlines the procedure for management of allegations. A Delegated Liaison Person (DLP) and a Deputy DLP are in place.
Children with adults present in common areas of hostels	Children under 18 must be accompanied by parent/guardian or group leaders who must provide supervision of their charges at all times at the ratio of 1 or more adult to every 10 children. Mixed gendered groups must contain an adequate number of

	leaders of each gender.
Sleeping arrangements for children accompanied by adults leaders other than parents.	Children under 18 must be accompanied by parent/guardian or group leaders who must provide supervision of their charges at all times at the ratio of 1 or more adult to every 10 children. Mixed gendered groups must contain an adequate number of leaders of each gender.
Children attending Interest Group/Regional Group events with adults present.	All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult who will supervise them at all times.
Recruitment	<p>An Óige's Child Protection Policy clearly outlines the procedure for safe recruitment of volunteers and staff.</p> <p>Garda Vetting is in place in accordance with the Association's Child Protection Policy and procedures for vetting are in place.</p> <p>Specific procedures for recruitment of volunteers and staff, taking into account the Association's Child Protection Policy and Garda Vetting Procedures, are in place.</p> <p>A Code of Behaviour for all staff and volunteers is in place.</p>
Recognition of abuse by staff and volunteers	<p>Information on recognising child abuse is contained in the Child Protection Policy which is issued to all staff.</p> <p>A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a Deputy DLP are in place and available to all staff and volunteers to address concerns.</p>
Use of third party organisations e.g. franchise hostels, to deliver services.	An Óige makes available its Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Policy to all organisations it deals with and formally requests that it adopt procedures compatible with those of An Óige.

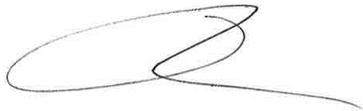
Our Child Safeguarding Procedures

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of our services:

- Child Protection Policy
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Code of Behaviour for Staff and Volunteers
- Safe Recruitment Procedures
- Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy in place
- Relevant Person appointed
- Accident Report Procedure
- Procedure for Reporting of concerns to TUSLA

Implementation

An Óige recognises that the area of Child Protection is a developing one and that policy development and implementation are an ongoing process. Our Association 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 in March 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.



Signed
David Owens, CEO
on behalf of An Óige (Irish Youth Hostel Association)
61 Mountjoy Street, Dublin 7.

Approved by the Board of An Óige 8th March 2018

For queries, please contact David Owens on dowens@anoige.ie or 01-8826715