Child Safeguarding Statement
(December 2025)

1. Name of Service: In Sync Youth & Family Services

2. Nature of Services we Provide

In Sync Youth & Family Services supports young people, children and families in Co. Kildare & West Wicklow to enable them to live a full and active life within their communities and society. **In Sync Youth & Family Services** is responsible for a range of community-based projects that work with young people, children & families across County Kildare and West Wicklow and manages 19 individual projects and services through an integrated service model. The services we provide are as follows:

- **Youth Club Development:** Five volunteer led youth clubs who work with children and young people across Kildare and West Wicklow.
- **Targeted UBU Youth Projects:** Seven community-based youth projects who work with young people and volunteers in targeted communities in, Athy, Clane, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Naas, Newbridge, the Curragh and West Wicklow.
- **Youth Diversion Projects:** Two projects who support young people to divert from crime and anti-social behaviour in North Kildare (Bridge YDP) and Curragh/Newbridge (CAN YDP).
- **Youth Information Service:** Provides a free & confidential information service to young people, and those who work with them, from a centre in Naas, but serving the whole of County Kildare.
- **One To One Support:** For young people with additional needs, the organisation delivers tailored support on an individual basis where appropriate.
- **KLGBT+ Project:** Weekly Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender drop-in space for LGBTI+ young people and friends operating across all of our community based youth projects.
- **Co. Kildare Comhairle na nÓg:** Youth Council which gives young people from across the county the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies and work on developing strategies on issues they feel are relevant to young people locally.
- **Naas Child & Family Project:** Provides a community based family support service for children & families in need in the Naas area.
- **Youth Counselling Service:** Works with young people and families across the County in centres in Athy, Celbridge, Leixlip, Naas, Newbridge and Rathangan.
- **The HALO Project**: Works with 12 to 21 year olds and their families in relation to their substance misuse across Kildare & West Wicklow.
- **The FAIM (Family Assessment & Intervention Model) Project:** Works with children & families in need of assessment and intervention in Kildare & West Wicklow.
- A **Community Employment Scheme** whereby **In Sync Youth & Family Services** supports up to 30 people to re-engage in the workplace in a variety of roles, predominantly youth work project assistants but also administration, club work, finance, caretaking, maintenance etc.

3. Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

In Sync Youth & Family Services is committed to the principles laid out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017. These are:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm.

- Interventions by the State should build on existing strengths and protective factors in the family.
- Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where it is necessary for the State to intervene to keep children safe, the minimum intervention necessary should be used.
- Children should only be separated from parents/carers when alternative means of protecting them have been exhausted.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.

4. Risk Assessment of Potential Harm to Children Whilst Availing of our Services

In Sync Youth & Family Services has reviewed and updated a comprehensive risk assessment in October, 2025 to identify potential areas of harm and to implement measures to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management Process (available at www.insync.ie) In Sync has also included the risk of harm to a child in the organisations Risk Management Policy & Procedures.

5. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support us to safeguard children while they are using our services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child while availing of our service.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information to staff, placements and volunteers, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available on request as is the **In Sync Youth & Family Services** Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. A Child Safeguarding & Welfare Report is also produced for every **In Sync Youth & Family Services** Board meeting

6. Implementation

In Sync Youth & Family Services 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 services. This Statement will be reviewed again by October 2027, or as soon as practicable, after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ **Signed: _____**
In Sync Youth & Family Services Chairperson **In Sync Youth & Family Services CEO**

Date: _____ **Date: _____**
In Sync Youth & Family Services, Unit 5 Wolfe Tone House, Naas Town Centre, Naas, Co. Kildare

For queries please contact: Tom Dunne: Tel: 086/3359992 Email: tom.dunne@insync.ie Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015