

Safeguarding Children

The Ulster-Scots Agency is committed to providing a high quality service that promotes good practice and protects children and young people from harm. The Ulster-Scots Agency developed a safeguarding policy and code of practice in conjunction with Foras na Gaeilge and expertise from NSPCC.

To support groups working with young people, a code of practice has been developed which can be adapted and implemented in your own organisation. All staff members must be informed of your own safeguarding policy and this code.

Minister promotes ChildLine number - 0800 1111

Minister Carál Ní Chuilín is raising awareness of the ChildLine helpline across the culture, arts and leisure sector.

The Minister, in partnership with the NSPCC, is encouraging all organisations that work with young people to promote the ChildLine Number - 0800 1111, across the north of Ireland.

Minister Ní Chuilín said: “I am very pleased to be able to promote ChildLine across the culture, arts and leisure sectors. Child protection across these sectors is very important. I would like to see every child participating in these activities to have access to the ChildLine number 0800 1111 where they can get additional help and support for any issue that’s worrying them. Organisations can simply do this by displaying the ChildLine logo on their website, putting up posters or distributing ChildLine information cards.

“It is the duty of every organisation working in this sector to put in place safeguards to protect the children they are working with to establish a culture of safety to ensure young people’s voices are heard. It is also vital that young people know that they can seek help from ChildLine.”

Neil Anderson, Head of Service for the NSPCC, Northern Ireland said: “Thousands of children enjoy taking part in a wide range of culture, arts and leisure activities every week in the north of Ireland. These activities are a great opportunity for fun and help to develop their personal, social and physical skills. The activity groups, clubs and sports organisations they attend all have a duty of care towards the welfare of every child both in terms of being a safe environment and in ensuring that young people know they have someone to turn to if they have a concern.

“Staff and volunteers who work with children are well placed to make a real difference for vulnerable young people who need someone to turn to. Although many young people would prefer to turn to other young people for support, it is the responsibility of adults within a club to ensure that no young person feels they have to carry any burden alone.”

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure will work with organisations in the sector who engage with young people and applying for government funding to develop and implement safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that everyone knows and accepts their responsibility in relation to safeguarding children.