

## NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEER-LED YOUTH GROUPS

### ARE THE CORE PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS IN PLACE IN OUR YOUTH GROUP?

*The examples below can help you to identify if the Core Principles and Standards are in place in your youth group.*

#### CORE PRINCIPLE 1: YOUNG PERSON-CENTRED

**Standard 1:** *Programmes, practices and people ensure and promote the voluntary participation, inclusion and voice of young people*

INDICATORS	<i>Examples of how this might be in place in your group Areas to be developed through the Improvement Plan</i>
1. Young people are actively involved in the <b>running of the group</b>	Young people are involved in the running of the group, e.g. involvement in management/organising committees/Patrol Councils, e.g. minutes, proposals, photographs, group notes, planning sheets etc.
2. Young people are actively involved in <b>design and delivery of activities</b>	Young people are involved in the design and delivery of the group's activities and programmes, e.g. discussions to generate ideas, organising and implementing activities.
3. Young people are actively involved in the <b>planning and evaluation of activities</b>	Young people are involved in planning and evaluation of the group's activities and programmes, e.g. feedback sought from young people about their involvement and experiences (show of hands, group discussions, planning sheets, idea maps etc.).
4. Activities are <b>accessible and inclusive</b>	Efforts to ensure activities are as accessible and as inclusive as possible, e.g. young people who may be marginalised or lacking in confidence are encouraged and supported to participate in the group and its activities, e.g. statement of young people's rights

#### CORE PRINCIPLE 2: SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

**Standard 2:** *Programmes, practices and people ensure and promote the safety, support and well-being of young people*

INDICATORS	<i>Examples of how this might be in place in your group Areas to be developed through the Improvement Plan</i>
1. Appropriate <b>insurance cover</b> in place	Insurance cover in place, e.g. for on-site and off-site activities.
2. <b>Health and safety</b> procedures in place	Health and Safety procedures in place, e.g. Health and Safety Statement, trained first aiders, first aid kit, fire drills, incident and accident forms.
3. <b>Child Protection</b> policy and procedures in place	Child Protection policy and procedures in place, e.g. Child Protection Policy, appropriate leader to member ratios, named designated person, Garda vetting process, parental/guardian consent forms, sign-in forms, volunteer roles and responsibilities, volunteer recruitment process, attendance records

#### CORE PRINCIPLE 3: DEVELOPMENTAL/EDUCATIONAL

**Standard 3:** *Programmes, practices and people ensure and promote the development, achievement and progression of young people*

INDICATORS	<i>Examples of how this might be in place in your group Areas to be developed through the Improvement Plan</i>
1. Young people's <b>needs and interests</b> are recognised and responded to	Young people's needs are taken into account and/or responsive programmes or activities provided, e.g. planning sheets, overview/timetables etc.
2. Young people's <b>abilities and potential</b> are developed	Young people's abilities are improved, new skills learned, e.g. leadership skills development, team working.
3. Young people's <b>participation and achievement</b> are recognised	Young people's achievements are recognised, e.g. award events, certificates of completion of programme/activity.
4. <b>Support and training</b> is provided for volunteer leaders	Supports and training provided for volunteer leaders, e.g. leadership/group work/child protection training, information nights, informal and/or formal support from other volunteer leaders, parent organisations.