

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT COMPLIANCE UNIT

Consultation with Young People on awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements 2023



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Report Summary

The Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU) is a department within the Tusla, Child and Family Agency that works with organisations and people who run services and activities for children and young people about the need to have a Child Safeguarding Statement. These people are providers of relevant services and can include activities linked to childcare, schools, hospitals, accommodation centres, care facilities, counselling, sport, music, drama, dance, art, youth clubs or programmes, transport, religious groups, or An Garda Síochána activities.

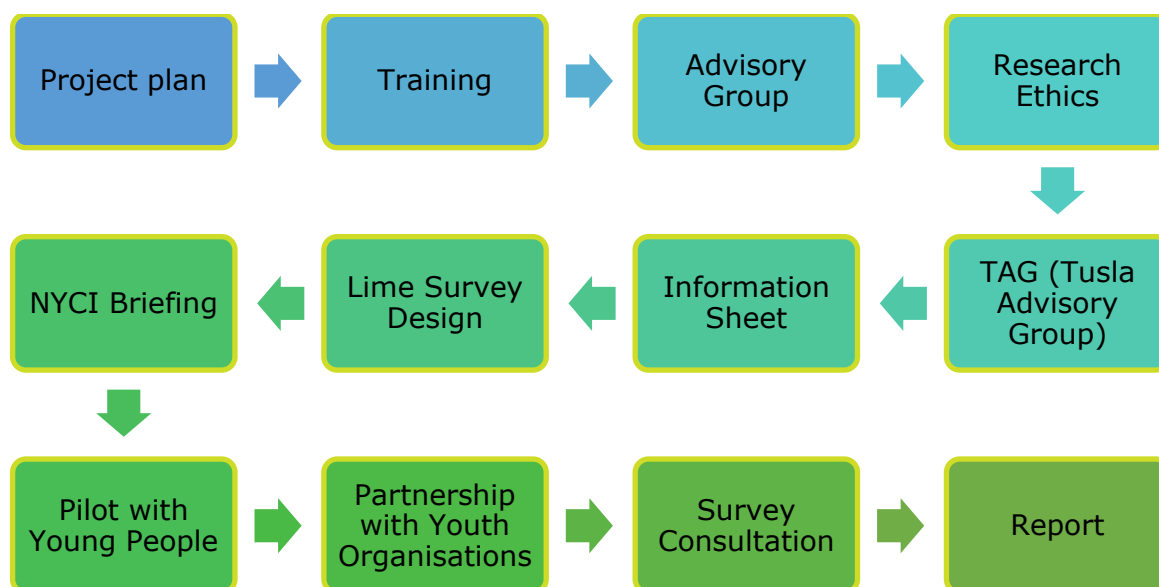
The Children First Act, 2015 is the legislation that has a list of Relevant Services (Schedule 1) that describes what activities and services are required by law to have a Child Safeguarding Statement to keep children and young people safe and protected from harm while using those services. Section 11 of the Children First Act, 2015 tells relevant services what information needs to be in a Child Safeguarding Statement. The CSSCU works with relevant services to make sure a CSS is in place. The CSSCU also keeps a public register that lists relevant services that do not have a CSS.

In 2023, the CSSCU set up a project to consult with young people aged 12-18 years to discover if young people are aware of Child Safeguarding Statements. The consultation was a chance for young people to share their views about what they know about Child Safeguarding Statements in Relevant Services.

The approach to this project was youth centred and focused on article 12 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child which refers to young people's right to express views and to have their views given due weight. The Lundy Model of Participation provides a pathway for a rights-based approach to youth participation through four key elements of space, voice, audience, and influence.



The Lundy Model informed the approach to this consultation and the steps taken to prepare and consult with young people.



50 young people aged 12-18 years responded to the survey. These young people are involved with five youth organisations working throughout Ireland. The survey asked seven questions and this report shares information about what young people told CSSCU.

Young people shared helpful information and told us that they want to know more, be consulted, and involved in developing Child Safeguarding Statements. We know more about young people's familiarity with CSSs, young people's awareness of what a CSS is used for and young people's participation in more than one relevant service type.

Not all young people are familiar with Child Safeguarding Statements. 62% of the young people who responded to the survey said they have heard of a Child Safeguarding Statement and 42% have seen one. More young people have heard about a CSS than those that have seen one.

Some young people have heard of Child Safeguarding Statements, but the findings suggest they are not being talked about regularly in Relevant Services. Young people suggest *"discussing the safeguarding statements and not just going there if you need it"*.

The findings show that 58% of young people who responded may not be aware of what a CSS looks like or how to recognise it within a service. One young

person said, *"I have never seen a child safeguarding statement in my whole thirteen years and nine months of life so maybe you should try harder"*. Many young people told us to *"have it on display for young people to see"*.

Therefore, more discussion and display of Child Safeguarding Statements within Relevant Services is a way of helping young people to become more familiar with CSSs.

58% of the young people who responded to the survey do not know or are unsure what a Child Safeguarding Statement is used for. Young people have told us to *"explain it nice and simple so it is easy for young people to understand"*.

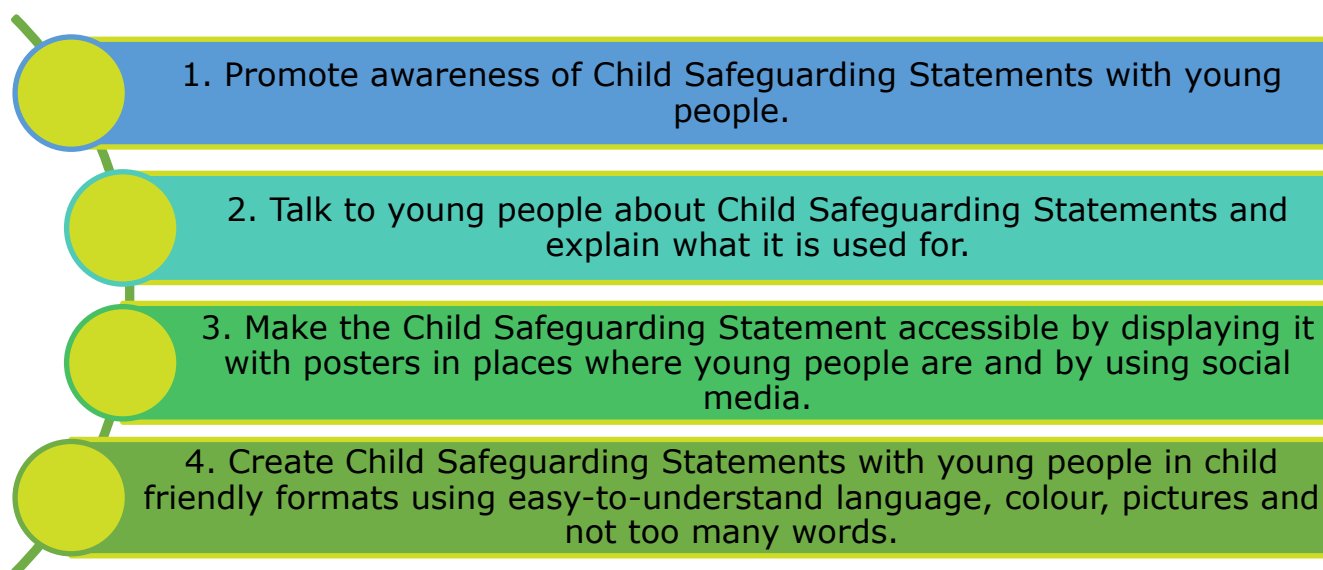
It is not common for young people to actively participate in reviewing or developing a Child Safeguarding Statement in Relevant Services. Young people have recommended that relevant services create Child Safeguarding Statements with young people in child friendly formats using easy-to-understand language, colour, pictures and not too many words. One young person said, *"creating youth friendly versions of statements would make them more accessible to young people and asking organisations to develop the CSS with young people could be a very welcome step with regular reviewing"*.

Therefore, increased participation of young people in the development and review of Child Safeguarding Statements is a way of creating child friendly formats and helping young people understand the purpose of a CSS.

It is common for young people to be involved in more than one relevant service type. Most young people who responded to the survey participate in a school or education centre, a youth café or club and sports activities or clubs. Some young people said they participate in music, drama or dance activities; online youth activities or clubs; homework or afterschool activities; art activities or clubs; bus or transport services; consultations for youth participation; hospital or health care centre; counselling, guidance or therapy; activity camps; youth activities with An Garda Síochána; and religious community activities. None of the respondents participate in a care facility or residential or accommodation centre.

Therefore, there are several places and opportunities for young people to become aware of Child Safeguarding Statements in various relevant service types.

The CSSCU want advice provided to relevant services about Child Safeguarding Statement awareness to be informed by young people who use relevant services. Young people shared four key messages for all relevant services.

- 
1. Promote awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements with young people.
 2. Talk to young people about Child Safeguarding Statements and explain what it is used for.
 3. Make the Child Safeguarding Statement accessible by displaying it with posters in places where young people are and by using social media.
 4. Create Child Safeguarding Statements with young people in child friendly formats using easy-to-understand language, colour, pictures and not too many words.

Based on the Lundy Model of Participation, the survey consultation created a space for young people to share their views. The voice of young people was expressed by those who responded to the survey. Tusla's CSSCU is the audience who listened to the views expressed by young people. This report and key messages are intended to influence how organisations and people who run services and activities for children and young people raise awareness, consult with, and involve young people in the use of Child Safeguarding Statements.

The purpose of a Child Safeguarding Statement is to keep children and young people safe and protected from harm while using services. A benefit of raising youth awareness and participation in the development and use of Child Safeguarding Statements is that young people are empowered to feel safe from harm while using services. Identifying risks and developing procedures to prevent and respond to harm that are informed by young people can improve the relevance and effectiveness of practices that keep children and young people safe. A strong safeguarding culture and participatory approach increases the confidence of young people and parents in the safety of services they use. Safe environments for children and young people have a positive impact on their wellbeing.

Therefore, raising awareness, consulting with, and involving young people in the use of Child Safeguarding Statements is an important safeguarding measure in all relevant services.

Acknowledgements

Many people helped the consultation with young people.

- ❖ The young people who responded to the survey questions.
- ❖ The young people who shared feedback on the pilot survey.
- ❖ The youth organisations who volunteered to facilitate the consultation (Crosscare; Foróige; Ógras; Ombudsman for Children's Office; and YMCA Dublin).
- ❖ The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) who promoted the project and organised a briefing for youth organisations.
- ❖ The young people from TAG (Tusla Advisory Group) who gave us feedback on the questions.
- ❖ Members of the advisory group who shared advice during the project.
- ❖ Tusla research office who gave guidance on ethics and how to develop the consultation in a way that is respectful of young people's rights.
- ❖ Tusla Participation and Partnership Officers who helped organise the pilot.
- ❖ Tusla Workforce Learning and Development who provided training on youth participation.
- ❖ The team in Tusla's Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU) and Michelle Hennessy, Senior Compliance Officer who prepared the report.

1.0 Introduction

The Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU) is a department within the Tusla, Child and Family Agency that works with organisations and people who run services and activities for children and young people about the need to have a Child Safeguarding Statement.

In 2023, the CSSCU set up a project to consult with young people aged 12-18 years to discover if young people are aware of Child Safeguarding Statements. The consultation was a chance for young people to share their views about what they know about Child Safeguarding Statements in Relevant Services.

This report shares information about what young people told CSSCU during the consultation. The report makes recommendations for relevant services about raising awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements.

2.0 Context

2.1. Child Safeguarding Statement

A Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS) is a document written by people who organise and run services and activities for children or young people. These people are also known as providers of relevant services.

The CSS document tells you what a relevant service does. It tells you how the people running it plan to make the service safe and protect children and young people from being hurt by other people when using the service. It tells you about the risks of harm such as physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, bullying, neglect, or online abuse.

It says what the service does to stop these types of harm from happening and how it makes sure that children or young people who are harmed will get the help they need. It also gives the name and contact information for the relevant person to talk to about the statement.

2.2. Relevant Services

The people who organise and run services or activities for children or young people are providers of relevant services.

A relevant service for children or young people can include activities linked to childcare, schools, hospitals, accommodation centres, care facilities, counselling, sport, music, drama, dance, art, youth clubs

or programmes, transport, religious groups, or An Garda Síochána activities.

2.3. The Law

The Children First Act, 2015 is the legislation that has a list of Relevant Services (Schedule 1) that describes what activities and services are required by law to have a Child Safeguarding Statement to keep children and young people safe and protected from harm while using those services.

Section 11 of the Children First Act, 2015 tells relevant services what information needs to be in a Child Safeguarding Statement. The CSSCU works with relevant services to make sure a CSS is in place. The CSSCU also keeps a public register that lists relevant services that do not have a CSS.

One requirement of the law is that a Child Safeguarding Statement must be displayed in a visible place and to be available if somebody would like to view it. This is so that people are aware of the CSS and how the organisation will keep children and young people safe from harm while using a service.

2.4. Youth Participation

Children and young people have a right to participate in and influence decisions that affect them. The CSSCU respect this right and asked young people about their awareness of child safeguarding statements so that it can be communicated to relevant services.

Article 12 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child refers to young people's right to express views and to have their views given due weight. The Lundy Model of Participation provides a pathway for a rights-based approach to youth participation through four key elements of space, voice, audience, and influence.



The National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making 2015-2020 (DCYA) and The Tusla Child and Youth Participation Strategy 2019-2023 are also informed by Article 12 and the Lundy Model. Therefore, the CSSCU took the approach of creating space, voice, audience, and influence to support young people's participation in this consultation.



3.0 Purpose

The purpose of the consultation is to discover what young people know about Child Safeguarding Statements. It is about young people's awareness of CSSs across all services or activities that young people may use or be involved in. It is not about any specific organisation or service.

The CSSCU want to include young people's voices in the development and use of Child Safeguarding Statements in a way that respects their rights, providing voice, space, audience, and influence. Advice to relevant services about CSS awareness will be informed by young people who use relevant services.

4.0 Methodology

The CSSCU set up a project to seek the views of young people. Several steps were taken during 2023 to prepare to consult with young people that are presented in the table below.

Steps Taken	Details
Project Plan 	Put together a project plan to ask young people aged between 12 and 18 years about their awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements.
Training 	The people who work in CSSCU took part in Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Training to learn tips for getting started with the project.

Advisory Group



Asked people from different departments in Tusla Child & Family Agency to be part of an advisory group for the project.

Research Ethics



Talked to people in Tusla's research office about making sure that the project respects young people's rights.

The CSSCU wanted to make sure that young people are not harmed by participating in this project.

Planned to keep young people informed and safe during the consultation.

TAG

(Tusla Advisory Group)



Young people from TAG (Tusla Advisory Group) gave the CSSCU some advice on a sample of questions to ask young people. The CSSCU took these comments on board when designing the survey.

Information Sheets



Wrote information sheets for youth organisations and young people to inform them about the CSSCU, the purpose of the consultation and signposting to support services.

Lime Survey



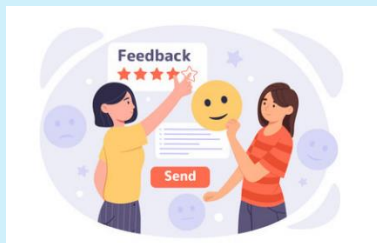
Designed a survey with seven questions on an online tool Lime Survey.

National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) Briefing



Worked with people in the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) to give an information briefing to youth organisations and asked them to volunteer to help the CSSCU to consult with young people.

Pilot with Young People



Shared a copy of the survey and information sheet with a group of young people and a Tusla Participation and Partnership Officer to pilot it before the design was finished.

They provided feedback on the information sheet for young people and survey content.

The CSSCU listened to the feedback and made changes to the information and survey before sharing with young people.

Partnership with Youth Organisations

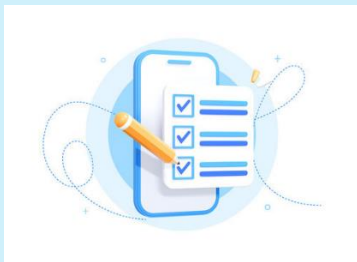


Five youth organisations volunteered to work in partnership with the CSSCU to facilitate the consultation with young people.

These organisations already work with and have relationships with young people who responded to the survey.

Youth workers supported young people to respond to the survey. They shared information from the CSSCU and gained consent for participating.

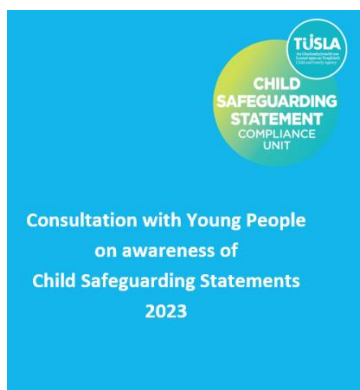
Survey Consultation



Participating youth organisations shared the survey link with young people.

The survey consultation was open for one month between November and December 2023.

Report



The views of young people shared during the consultation are recorded in this report.

The feedback will inform the advice that CSSCU gives to organisations providing services and activities to children and young people about raising awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements.

The report will be published to the CSSCU page on the Tusla website.

A decision was made during ethical considerations that young people would not be targeted to participate due to the types of services they use. Participation was open to any young person who volunteered to participate and respond to the survey questions.

However, a weakness of the methodology for the consultation is that access to the survey link was only available to young people involved in the youth organisations that volunteered to support the project.

This means that the views shared in this report may not be the views of all young people. The views are those of a representative group of young people involved with five youth organisations working throughout Ireland.

5.0 Findings & Analysis

The consultation information sheet and survey link were shared with young people by youth workers. 50 young people responded to the survey. The survey had seven questions (see appendix).

The findings from young people's responses to the questions are shared in sections 5.1 and 5.2 below. The CSSCU studied these responses and have included analysis comments about what the findings are telling us.

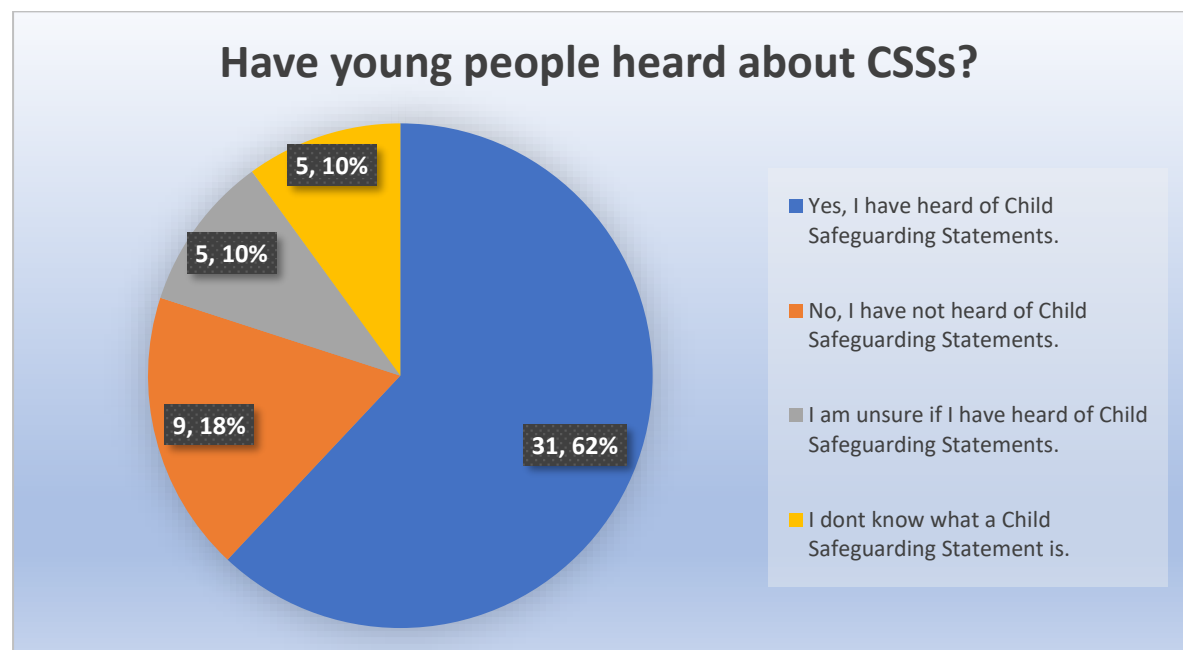
Overall, the findings tell the CSSCU a few things about young people's awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements. Section 5.3 shares CSSCU learning from the consultation findings.

5.1. Responses to questions 1 to 6

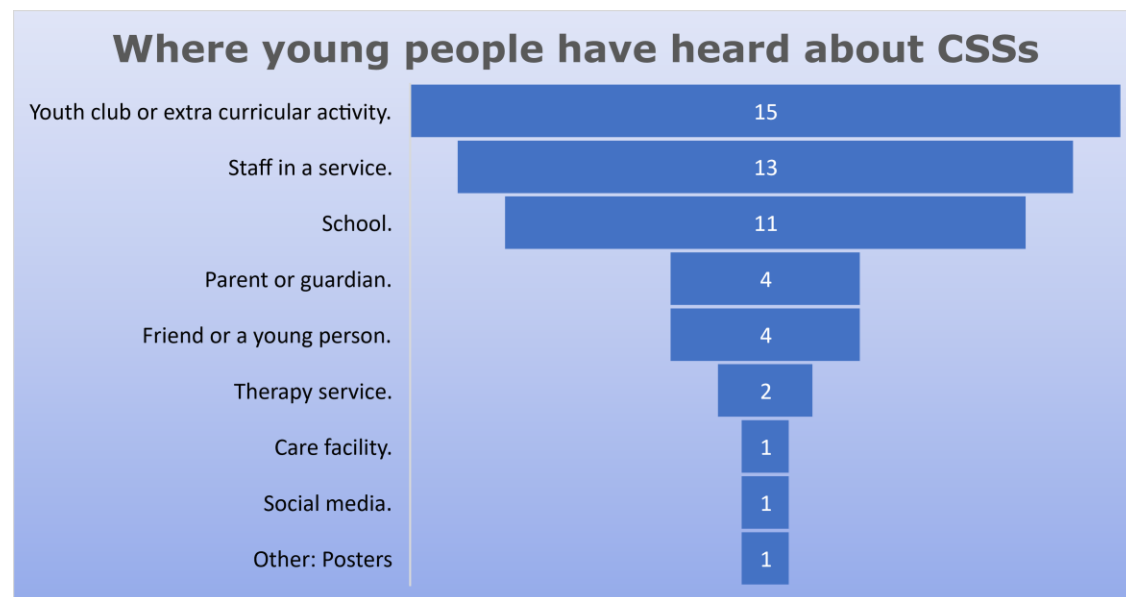
The findings from the responses to questions 1 to 6 are also known as quantitative findings. A review of the responses to these six questions looked at the number of young people and how they responded to each question.

Question 1 asked young people if they have heard about Child Safeguarding Statements?

- ❖ 62% of respondents have heard of CSSs.
- ❖ 18% of respondents have not heard of CSSs.
- ❖ 10% of respondents are unsure if they have heard of CSSs.
- ❖ 10% of respondents do not know what a CSS is.



Question 2 asked young people where they heard about Child Safeguarding Statements. Responses are shown in the table below.

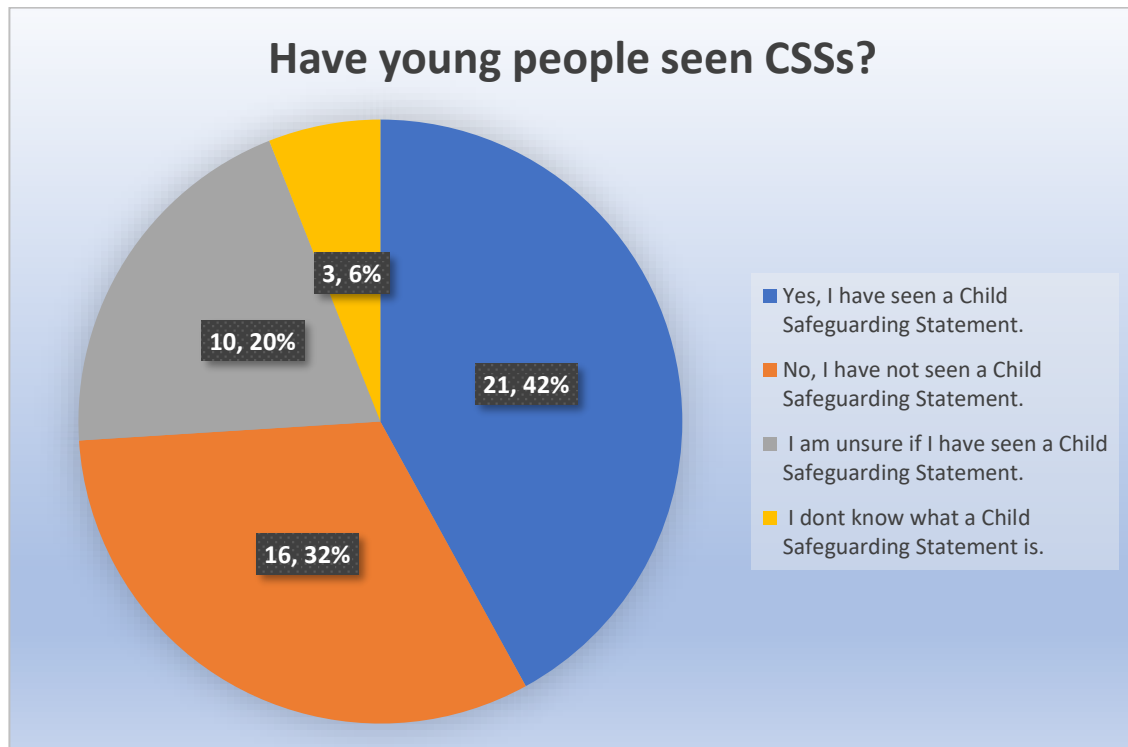


Analysis

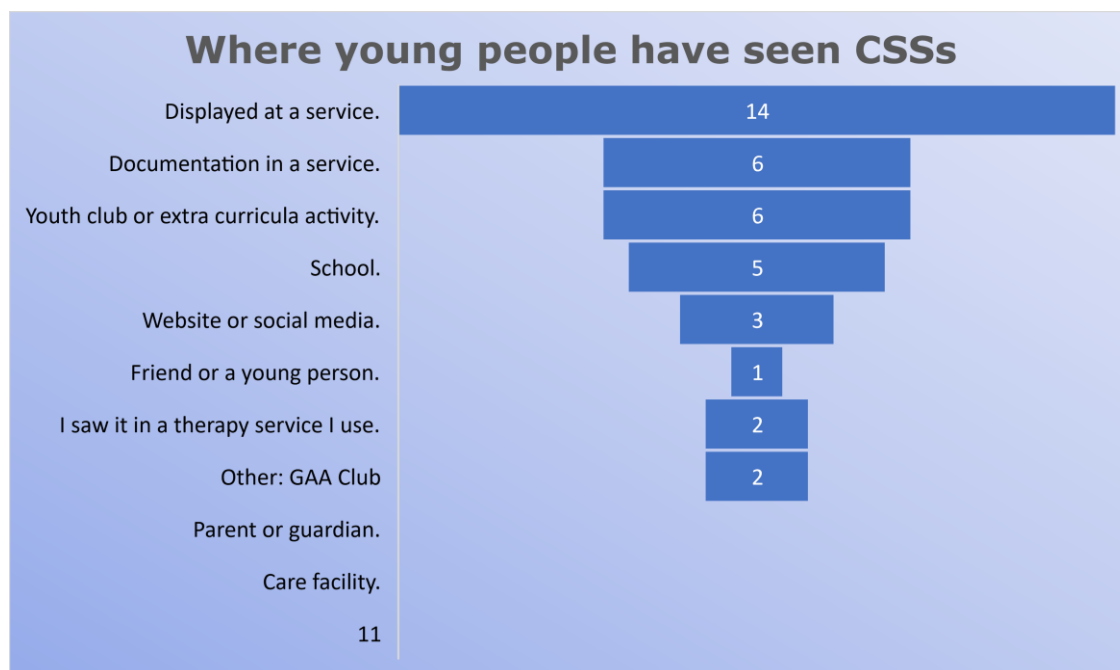
- **62% of the young people who responded to the survey said they have heard of a Child Safeguarding Statement.**
- **38% of the young people who responded to the survey said they have not heard of, are unsure or do not know what a Child Safeguarding Statement is.**
- **The top three ways young people have heard about CSSs is from youth clubs or extra-curricular activities, from staff in services or in schools.**
- **This tells us that many young people may not have heard about or know what a Child Safeguarding Statement is.**
- **It also tells us that Child Safeguarding Statements are not being talked about regularly in Relevant Services.**

Question 3 asked young people if they have seen Child Safeguarding Statements?

- ❖ 42% of respondents have seen a CSS.
- ❖ 32% of respondents have not seen a CSS.
- ❖ 20% of respondents are unsure if they have seen a CSS.
- ❖ 6% of respondents do not know what a CSS is.



Question 4 asked young people where they have seen Child Safeguarding Statements. Responses are shown in the table below.

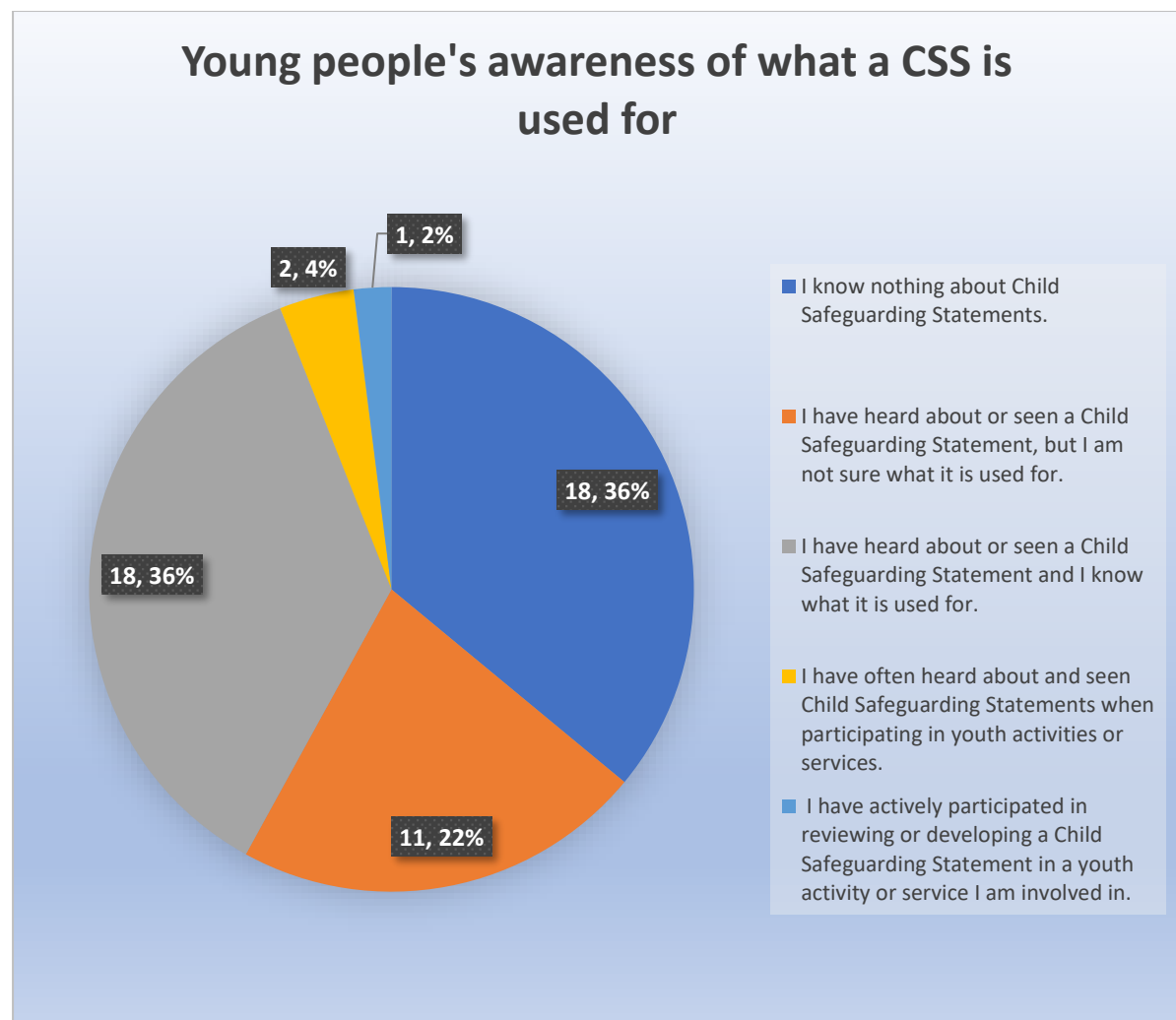


Analysis

- **42% of the young people who responded to the survey said they have seen a Child Safeguarding Statement.**
- **58% of the young people who responded to the survey said they have not seen, are unsure or don't know what a Child Safeguarding Statement is.**
- **The top three places young people have seen a CSS is displayed at a service, documentation given to young people in a service, or in a youth club or extra-curricular activities.**
- **This tells us that many young people may not have seen or know what a Child Safeguarding Statement looks like.**
- **It also tells us that young people may not know how to recognise a Child Safeguarding Statement in Relevant Services.**

Question five asked about young people's awareness of what a Child Safeguarding Statement is used for.

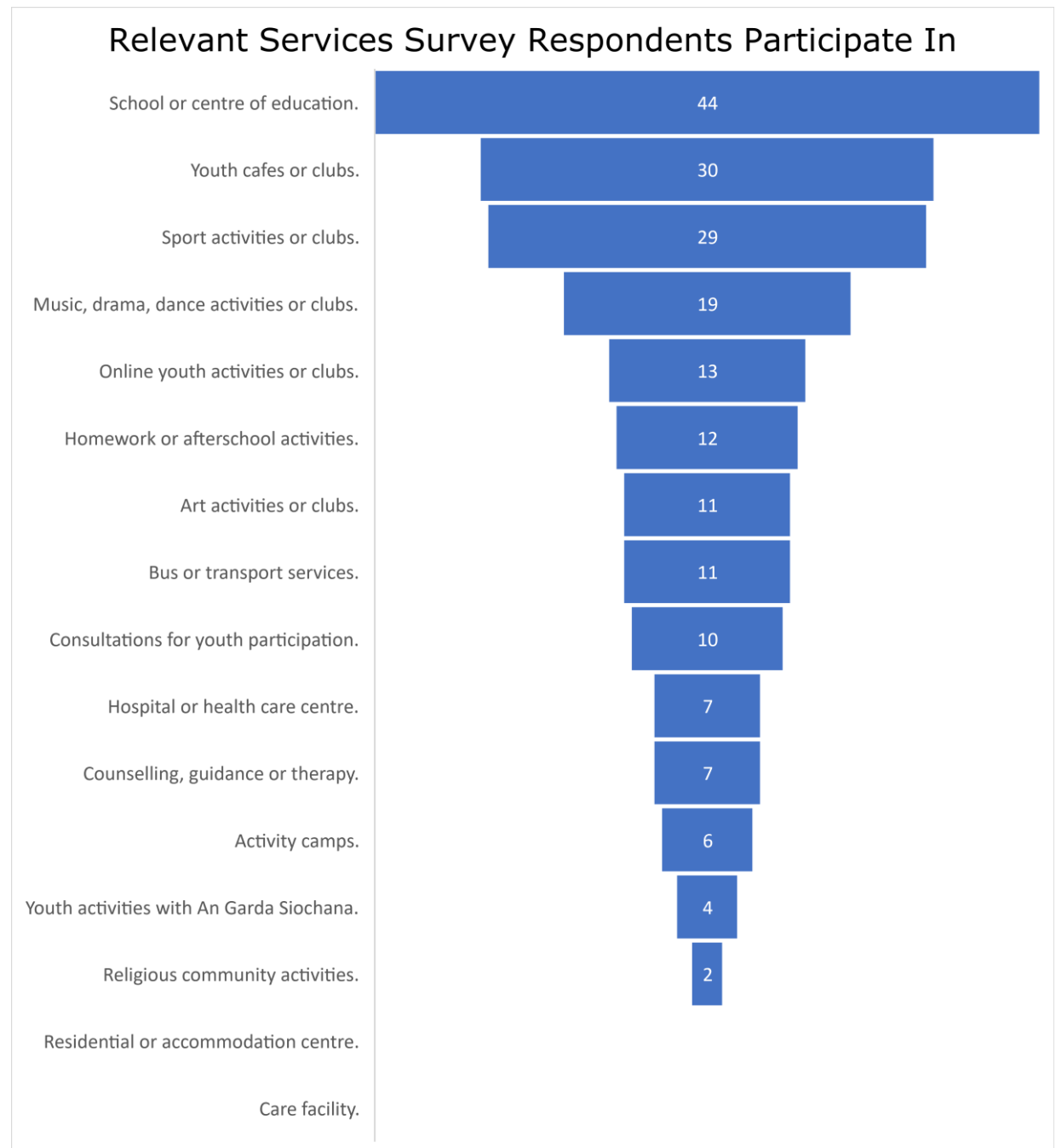
- ❖ 36% of respondents know nothing about CSSs.
- ❖ 22% of respondents have heard about or seen a CSS but are not sure what it is used for.
- ❖ 36% of respondents have heard about or seen a CSS and know what it is used for.
- ❖ 4% of respondents have often heard about and seen CSSs when participating in youth activities or services.
- ❖ 2% of respondents have actively participated in reviewing or developing a CSS.



Analysis

- **58% of young people who responded to the survey do not know or are unsure what a Child Safeguarding Statement is used for.**
- **40% of the young people who responded to the survey said that they have often heard about or seen a CSS and know what a CSS is used for.**
- **One young person (2%) said they have actively participated in reviewing or developing a CSS with a service.**
- **This tells us that a high number of young people may not understand what a Child Safeguarding Statement is used for.**
- **It also tells us that it is not common for young people to actively participate in reviewing or developing a Child Safeguarding Statement in Relevant Services.**

Question 6 asked young people about the different relevant service types they may participate in. The table below shows the type of services and activities that young people who responded to the survey participate in.



Analysis

- **Most young people who responded to the survey participate in a school or education centre, a youth café or club and sports activities or clubs.**
- **Some young people participate in music, drama or dance activities; online youth activities or clubs; homework or afterschool activities; art activities or clubs; bus or transport services; consultations for youth participation; hospital or health care centre; counselling, guidance or therapy; activity camps; youth activities with An Garda Síochána; and religious community activities.**
- **None of the respondents participate in a care facility or residential or accommodation centre.**
- **This tells us that it is common for young people to be involved in more than one relevant service type. This means there are several places for young people to become aware of Child Safeguarding Statements.**
- **The findings also tell us that young people who participate in a care facility or residential or accommodation were not represented in this consultation which is a gap.**

5.2. Responses to question 7.

The findings from the responses to question 7 are also known as qualitative findings. Question 7 asked young people to give ideas so that the people providing youth activities and services can make it easier for children and young people to be aware of Child Safeguarding Statements.

34 young people (68% of respondents) shared ideas in response to this question. CSSCU reviewed the responses and identified eight themes.

1. Explain the CSS to young people (10 respondents)
2. Display the CSS (8 respondents).
3. Talk to young people about the CSS (6 respondents).
4. Create a youth friendly CSS (5 respondents).
5. Share the CSS on social media (2 respondents).
6. Develop the CSS with young people (1 respondent).
7. Give information to parents about a CSS (1 respondent).
8. Notice if a young person is struggling (1 respondent).

See what young people said about these themes below.

Explain the CSS to young people

"Explain it nice and simple so it is easy for young people to understand".

"Wherever young people are present make sure they know exactly what the Child Safeguarding Statements even is".

"Show them it and let them know what it means"

"Explain it to them, letting them see it"

"Whats it mean to me, way to complicated".

"Have an introduction of it throughout the year for new members or a refresh".

"Promote them at young people events".

"A campaign that went around the country especially in places where young people spend time, so that they are aware of".

"To teach it in a secondary or primary school".

"Let them know what it is and show them how to access and understand it whether through a video or staff training".

Display the CSS

"I have never seen a child safeguarding statement in my whole thirteen years and nine months of life so maybe you should try harder".

"Safeguarding statements be displayed at clubs or easily accessible on an organisation's website"

"Have posters up explaining what a Child Safeguarding Statement is in the main room or area of the service or building that the activity is based in/at".

"Have it on display for young people to see".

"Maybe display it so that I can read it".

"To put posters outside so people can read it".

"Eye catching posters"

"Post them in more places on walls".

Talk to young people about the CSS

"Tell us about it".

"Some talks about what it is for those who don't know".

"Discussing the safeguarding statements and not just going there if you need it".

"Think sometimes we talk about when we join then forget about it".

"Maybe clubs, schools tell us more so we are informed".

"There could be talks at schools".

Create a youth friendly CSS

"Do it in picture format with words for easy to understand".

"A brief summary with easy to understand language of the Child Safeguarding Statement can be displayed for the children to see and read, specifically for children".

"Make it attractive and colorful, in a way that catches their attention, like a comic book".

"A service that works with organisations to provide a version of child safeguarding statements that is child friendly".

"Too many words".

Share the CSS on social media

"Put out announcements on social media about it and make speeches about it in school".

"Making them more regular on social media because young people spend a lot of time on sites like Instagram, Youtube and Snapchat".

Develop the CSS with young people

"Creating youth friendly versions of statements would make them more accessible to young people and asking organisations to develop the CSS with young people could be a very welcome step with regular reviewing".

Give information to parents about a CSS

"Tell the parents and they will tell the kids".

Notice if a young person is struggling

"Maybe take more notice of a child's routine and if you see it change in a bad way make sure everything is ok at home cause you never want someone struggling in silence".

Analysis

- **34 young people shared ideas about how the people providing youth activities and services can make it easier for children and young people to be aware of Child Safeguarding Statements.**
- **The key messages for relevant services are:**
 - **Explain what a Child Safeguarding Statement is used for, talk to them about it and make it easy to understand.**
 - **Make the CSS accessible by displaying it with posters in places where young people are and by using social media.**
 - **Create Child Safeguarding Statements with young people in child friendly formats using easy-to-understand language, colour, pictures and not too many words.**

5.3. CSSCU learning from the consultation.

The CSSCU want to include children and young people's voices in the development and use of Child Safeguarding Statements in a way that respects their rights, providing voice, space, audience, and influence. We want advice to relevant services about CSS awareness to be informed by young people who use relevant services.

Young people who responded to this survey shared helpful information about young people's awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements. We have learnt about young people's familiarity with CSSs, young people's awareness of what a CSS is used for and about young people's participation in more than one relevant service type.

The tables below outline what the CSSCU has learnt and how it intends to respond to the findings.

Young people's familiarity with CSSs.	
Learning	Response
We have learnt that not all young people are familiar with Child Safeguarding Statements.	To promote discussion and display of Child Safeguarding Statements within Relevant Services as a way of helping young people to become more familiar with CSSs.
Some have heard of Child Safeguarding Statements, but the findings suggest they are not being talked about regularly in Relevant Services.	
More young people have heard about a CSS than those that have seen one.	
If young people have not seen a Child Safeguarding Statement, they may not know how to recognise it in Relevant Services.	
Young people have recommended that relevant services make the CSS accessible by displaying it with posters in places where young people are and by using social media.	To support compliance with the requirement of the Children First Act, 2015 to display the CSS in a prominent place.

Young people's awareness of what a CSS is used for.

Learning	Response
<p>We have learnt that some young people may not understand what a Child Safeguarding Statement is used for.</p> <p>Young people have told us they want to understand and know more about Child Safeguarding Statements.</p> <p>They have recommended that relevant services explain what a Child Safeguarding Statement is used for, talk to them about it and make it easy to understand.</p> <p>It is not common for young people to actively participate in reviewing or developing a Child Safeguarding Statement in Relevant Services.</p> <p>Young people have also recommended that relevant services create Child Safeguarding Statements with young people in child friendly formats using easy-to-understand language, colour, pictures and not too many words.</p>	<p>To promote participation of young people in the development and review of Child Safeguarding Statements as a way of helping young people understand the purpose of a CSS.</p> <p>To promote the creation of CSSs in child friendly formats so that it easier to understand.</p>

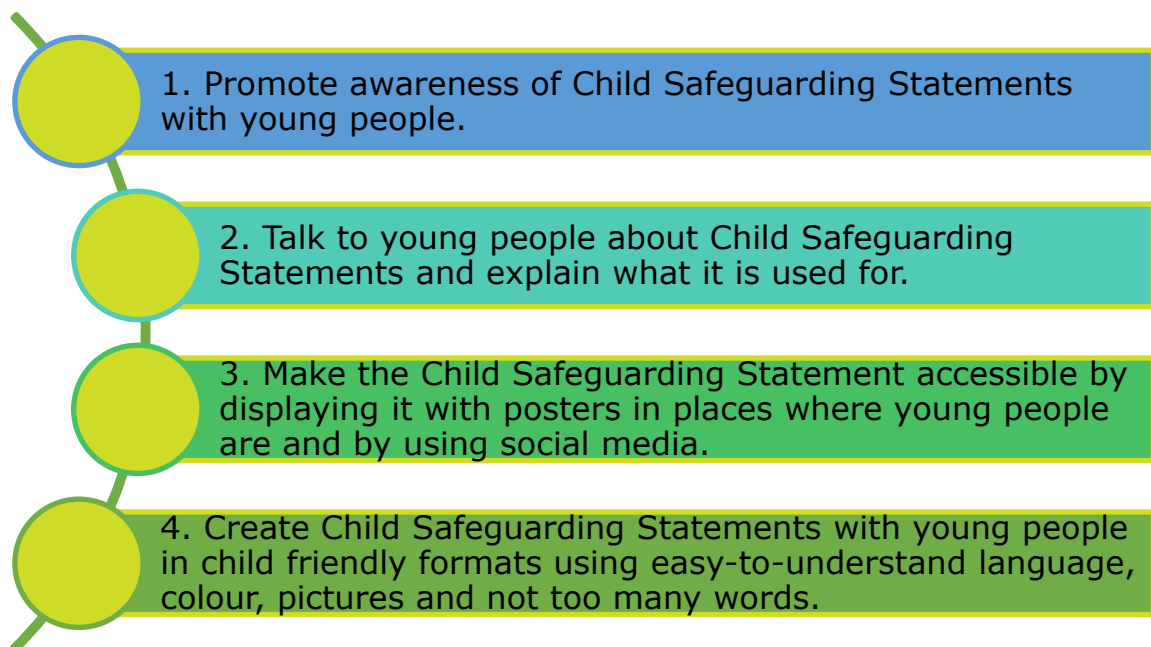
Young people's participation in Relevant Services

Learning	Response
<p>We have learnt that it is common for young people to participate in more than one relevant service type.</p> <p>There are several places and opportunities for young people to become aware of Child Safeguarding Statements.</p>	<p>To promote the findings of this consultation report with all relevant services and encourage implementation of the recommendations.</p>

6.0 Key Messages for Relevant Services

The approach to this project was youth centred and focused on article 12 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child which refers to young people's right to express views and to have their views given due weight. The Lundy Model of Participation provides a pathway for a rights-based approach to youth participation through four key elements of space, voice, audience, and influence.

The CSSCU want advice provided to relevant services about Child Safeguarding Statement awareness to be informed by young people who use relevant services. Young people shared four key messages for all relevant services.



Based on the Lundy Model of Participation, the survey consultation created a space for young people to share their views. The voice of young people was expressed by those who responded to the survey. Tusla's CSSCU is the audience who listened to the views expressed by young people. This report and key messages are intended to influence how organisations and people who run services and activities for children and young people raise awareness, consult with, and involve young people in the use of Child Safeguarding Statements.

The purpose of a Child Safeguarding Statement is to keep children and young people safe and protected from harm while using services. A benefit of raising youth awareness and participation in the development and use of Child Safeguarding Statements is that young people are empowered to feel safe from

harm while using services. Identifying risks and developing procedures to prevent and respond to harm that are informed by young people can improve the relevance and effectiveness of practices that keep children and young people safe. A strong safeguarding culture and participatory approach increases the confidence of young people and parents in the safety of services they use. Safe environments for children and young people have a positive impact on their wellbeing.

Therefore, raising awareness, consulting with, and involving young people in the use of Child Safeguarding Statements is an important safeguarding measure in all relevant services.

7.0 Conclusion

In 2023, the CSSCU set up a project to consult with young people aged 12-18 years to discover if young people are aware of Child Safeguarding Statements. The consultation was a chance for young people to share their views about what they know about Child Safeguarding Statements in Relevant Services.

50 young people responded to the survey consultation with the support of 5 youth organisations. This report shares information about what young people told CSSCU during the consultation.

This report represents to the voice of young people and makes recommendations for Relevant Services (defined in Schedule 1 of the Children First Act, 2015) about raising awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements that is informed by young people who use relevant services. The CSSCU will promote the findings of this consultation report to influence relevant services and encourage implementation of the recommendations to create safe environments for children and young people.

8.0 Appendix: Survey Content

Introduction page

Tusla CSSCU consultation with young people on awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements.

Welcome to the Tusla CSSCU consultation on young people's awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements. We work with organisations and people who run services and activities for children and young people. We support them to make sure that they obey the law by having Child Safeguarding Statements in place.

A Child Safeguarding Statement is a document written by people who organise and run services and activities for children or young people. These people are also known as providers of relevant services. The Child Safeguarding Statement document tells us what a relevant service does. It tells us how the people running it plan to make the service safe and protect children and young people from being hurt by other people when using the service. It tells us about the risks of harm such as physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, bullying or neglect. It says what the service does to stop these types of harm from happening and how it makes sure that children or young people who are harmed will get the help they need. It also gives the name and contact information for the relevant person to talk to about the statement.

We are seeking the views of young people aged between 12 and 18 years because we want to know if young people are aware of Child Safeguarding Statements.

We want to know about young people's awareness of Child Safeguarding Statements in the services or activities they may have contact with. These are also known as relevant services. They can include services or activities in schools, hospitals, accommodation centres, care centres, counselling, sport, music, drama, dance, art, youth clubs or programmes, transport services, and activities organised by religious groups or An Garda Síochána. The reason we want to know this is so that when we give advice to relevant services about Child Safeguarding Statement awareness, the advice is informed by young people who use relevant services.

There are 7 questions in this survey.

Data policy message

Please read the introductory information sheet which you should already have. This information sheet will help you decide if you want to respond to the survey. If you haven't received this information sheet, please ask the person who gave you this link for it.

Please read the following information about how we will protect your data and what we will do with the information you give us:

- You will not be asked to share your name or any personal information.
- The CSSCU will not know the identity or location of the young people who complete the survey.
- All your responses will be confidential, and you will not be asked to name or share your views about a specific organisation or relevant service that you may be involved in.
- CSSCU will get an anonymous copy of the survey responses.
- We will review all the responses from young people and record these collective views in a report about how aware young people are of Child Safeguarding Statements.
- The report will give CSSCU and relevant services information about how aware young people are of Child Safeguarding Statements.
- The report will be published to the CSSCU page on the Tusla website.
- After the report has been published CSSCU will delete all copies of the survey responses.

By agreeing to participate in this survey you are confirming that you have read and agree with the following statements:

- I am aged between 12 and 18 years.
- I have read and understood the introduction to this survey.
- I know that my participation is voluntary.
- I know that my participation is anonymous, and my name or location will not be recorded.
- I know that I can drop out at any time and my responses will only be recorded if I complete the survey to the end.
- I agree to respond to seven survey questions about Child Safeguarding Statements.

Survey Questions

1. Have you ever heard of a Child Safeguarding Statement? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes, I have heard of Child Safeguarding Statements.
- No, I have not heard of Child Safeguarding Statements.
- I am unsure if I have heard of Child Safeguarding Statements.
- I dont know what a Child Safeguarding Statement is.

2. If you have heard about a Child Safeguarding Statement, can you tell us how you heard about it?

*If you have not heard about a Child Safeguarding Statement, please move to question 3.

Please choose **all** that apply:

- I heard about it from a member of staff in a service I use.
- I heard about it on social media.
- My parent or guardian told me about it.
- My friend or a young person told me about it.
- I heard about it in school.
- I heard about it in a care facility.
- I heard about it in a youth club or extra curricular activity I use.
- I heard about it in a therapy service I use.
- Other:

3. Have you ever seen a Child Safeguarding Statement? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes, I have seen a Child Safeguarding Statement.
- No, I have not seen a Child Safeguarding Statement.
- I am unsure if I have seen a Child Safeguarding Statement.
- I dont know what a Child Safeguarding Statement is.

4. If you have seen a Child Safeguarding Statement, can you tell us about where you have seen it?

*If you have not seen a Child Safeguarding Statement, please move to Question 5.

Please choose **all** that apply:

- I saw it displayed at a service I use.
- I read about it in documentation given to me in a service I use.
- I saw it on a website or social media.
- My parent or guardian showed it to me.
- My friend or a young person showed it to me.
- I saw it at school.
- I saw it in a care facility.
- I saw it in a youth club or extra curricula activity I use.
- I saw it in a therapy service I use.
- Other:

5. Do you know what a Child Safeguarding Statement is for?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- I know nothing about Child Safeguarding Statements.
- I have heard about or seen a Child Safeguarding Statement, but I am not sure what it is used for.
- I have heard about or seen a Child Safeguarding Statement and I know what it is used for.
- I have often heard about and seen Child Safeguarding Statements when participating in youth activities or services.
- I have actively participated in reviewing or developing a Child Safeguarding Statement in a youth activity or service I am involved in.

6. Do you participate in any of the following activities or services that may also be known as relevant services to children and young people?

* Please tick all the youth activities or services that you may participate in. You can choose more than one option.

Please choose **all** that apply:

- School or centre of education.
- Residential or accommodation centre.
- Care facility.
- Hospital or health care centre.
- Counselling, guidance or therapy services.
- Sport activities or clubs.
- Music, drama, dance activities or clubs.
- Art activities or clubs.
- Online youth activities or clubs.
- Youth cafes or clubs.
- Activity camps.
- Homework or afterschool activities.
- Bus or transport services for school or youth activities.
- Consultations for youth participation.
- Religious community activities.
- Youth activities with An Garda Siochana.

7. Can you give us ideas so that the people providing youth activities and services can make it easier for children and young people to be aware of Child Safeguarding Statements?

Please write your answer here:

Closing message

Thank you for sharing your views on Child Safeguarding Statements with CSSCU.

If participating in this consultation with young people has caused worry or upset in any way, please link with these services for support.

- [Changing Futures](#) is a website for young people that has helpful information. If you are worried or need help you can contact Tusla through this website [here](#).
- You can also contact Tusla on 0818 776 315 Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm.
- Outside of these hours or in an emergency contact An Garda Siochana on 112 or 999.
- You can also find links to other support services for young people [here](#).

Thank you for completing this survey.