















What is aWelfare Committee?

It is important that welfare structures are put in place to support leaders. One effective way of providing support is the establishment of a Welfare Committee. This committee can be made up of Board/Steering Committee members and/or other supporting adults who have contact with the youth theatre.

The Welfare Committee should:

-  Be small;
-  Have a gender balance;
-  Deal with all welfare, health and safety issues that affect both members and leaders;
-  Support leaders in decisions and actions regarding welfare;
-  Act as a sounding board for the leaders' welfare concerns;
-  Be accessible to leaders.








The Welfare Committee and Youth Theatre Leaders should:

-  Make contact and develop a relationship with someone from outside the youth theatre, who has expertise in welfare issues, to act as a consultant to the Welfare Committee such as a representative from the local youth service with expertise in child protection;
-  Nominate a Designated Person who will deal with all matters pertaining to child protection;
-  Appoint a Deputy Designated Person in the event that the DP is unavailable. This is also necessary in case of a conflict of interest or the DP is involved directly in a complaint, incident or disclosure;
-  Ensure that the role and responsibilities of the DP are clear;
-  Provide the DP with the necessary contact details of relevant agencies;
-  Support the relevant training and development of the DP.

What is... A Designated Person?

A Designated Person is a responsible adult who will assume the main responsibility for all matters relating to child protection and welfare within the youth theatre. They will be the point of contact for NAYD's Authorised Signatory in relation to [Garda Vetting](#).

The Designated Person should:

-  Be a responsible adult;
-  Be accessible;
-  Have access to and be comfortable dealing with the relevant authorities e.g. social services, Gardaí
-  Be comfortable dealing with the topic of child protection and welfare;
-  Have the necessary skills and knowledge to handle welfare issues;
-  Have access to the necessary information to proceed in light of an incident/disclosure;
-  Ideally have participated in Child Protection Training.