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INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS ON DATA COLLECTED BY GARDA YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECTS

This leaflet is intended to give you information on what type of data is collected by Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs), why it is collected and who it is shared with. You should read this leaflet before signing the GYDP participant consent form. When signing the GYDP consent form you are agreeing to information sharing between the GYDP and other relevant parties and agencies.

1. Purpose of Garda Youth Diversion Projects

GYDPs engage with young people at risk of or involved in criminal and/or anti-social behaviour. The projects support participants using interventions designed to help them to stop offending and become positive contributors to society. The GYDPs offer participants opportunities for education, employment training, sport, art, music and other activities.

2. Funding

GYDPs are co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

3. What type of data is collected?

The data collected by GYDPs covers a range of personal information including gender, age, labour status, household status, level of education, etc. Some of the data collected may be considered to be of a sensitive nature (i.e. related to disability, migrant or minority status, and/or other disadvantages). The Youth Justice Workers **are required** to seek all data from the young persons engaged or their family/guardian, however, you can refuse to disclose "sensitive" data if you wish.

4. Why is data collected and who is it shared with?

Data in relation to participants on GYDPs is collected for two reasons:

- 1. For the purpose of engaging with the young person to help them to address their offending behaviour and to ensure that their individual needs are met.*

Data collected for this purpose may be shared with other relevant parties and agencies such as the Gardaí, schools, social workers, counsellors etc. who are working in partnership with the GYDP to ensure that the young person receives the support that they need. All information shared for this purpose will be maintained in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and 2003.

- 2. For reporting on GYDP activities to the Department of Justice and Equality (D/JE) and the European Union (EU).*

Data is required by D/JE for the following reasons:

- To help in the assessment of outcomes for GYDP participants and show that GYDPs are providing an effective service
- To meet reporting requirements in relation to EU funding and ensure continued funding for GYDPs from the EU
- To guide and inform the development of policy in relation to youth crime.

Some of the data collected for this purpose will be shared by D/JE with relevant EU bodies to meet reporting requirements under the ESF. It is important to note that any information shared with D/JE or the EU is **anonymised** i.e. there is no way for the D/JE or EU to identify any participant from this information. No personal details such as name, address, date of birth are shared.

The ESF Managing Authority is the Data Controller for participant data collected solely for the purpose of the ESF. Any queries related to data collected for ESF purposes should be directed to the Managing Authority at PEIL@education.gov.ie.