CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY for Youth Workers

All youth workers within Route 81 Youth Project have made a commitment to confidentiality in their work with young people. All youth workers will honour this policy and procedures throughout their youth work practice.

Youth workers within Route 81 recognise that a willingness to confide on the part of the young person is an important step in establishing a productive relationship, and that this is often based on the young person's belief that information is imparted in confidence.

Youth workers are expected to:

- Keep proper records as expected in good youth work practice and ensure that files or other documents are stored in a safe and secure manner
- Encourage a young person to allow his or her parents/guardian or carer to be consulted or relevant statutory or non-statutory authority or their representatives where appropriate
- Liaise with the Route 81 Project Workers thus ensuring the best interests of the child are being upheld in any advice or support given
- Seek guidance from the Route 81 Project Workers if they are unsure whether the information should be referred to the Route 81 Child Protection Co-ordinator or statutory agency, following guidelines within the Route 81 Child Protection Policy carefully
- Report all allegations of abuse to the Route 81 Child Protection Co-ordinator
- Inform the young person that they cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality and there may be a need to break a confidence if there is:
  - a serious threat of harm to the young person or others
  - consent from the young person to disclose
  - a legal requirement such as a court order

All youth workers are aware that if the last three points are not applicable and a confidence is broken then appropriate action will be taken against the worker in line with Route 81’s disciplinary procedures.