



Promoting consultation with young people and parents?

We wish to provide activities that are child-centred. In order to do this, we will consult with children and young people openly and encourage their feedback. We will always encourage parental involvement.



Name of Service: _____

Address: _____

Name of Designated Liaison Person: _____

Contact No: _____

Name of Relevant person for Child Safeguarding Statement: _____

Contact No: _____

Safeguarding Children and Young People in Mayo Initiative

Safeguarding Children and Young People in our Organisation



REMEMBER:

Listen to your children and young people and ask questions about the activities they take part in.

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



COISTÍ NA SEIRBHÍDÍ DO LEANAÍ & DO DHAOINE ÓGA

Maigh Eo

This leaflet is part of the *Safeguarding Children and Young People in Mayo Initiative*, an action of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Subgroup of Mayo CYPSC.
October 2021.

Information on our Child Safeguarding Practices for Parents/Carers



Children have a right to have fun and be safe



All services/groups that work with children and young people have a responsibility to be open and welcoming.

We are committed to sharing information about ourselves and our activities with children and parents.

You should expect good standards of practice in line with all relevant legislation and guidance, in relation to the safety and welfare of your children.

In this service we are committed to safeguarding children and young people. It is important that as parents/carers you know that your children are safe and will be treated positively when they are involved in our service and activities.

What should parents/carers expect from us?

We welcome questions about our activities and the procedures and practices we have with children.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND/OR CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

In line with **The Children First Act 2015** and **Children First National Guidance 2017 for the protection and welfare of children 2017**, there are a number of requirements which ensure we are taking measures to keep children and young people safe.

There is a legal requirement for providers of relevant services to have a Child Safeguarding Statement (see accompanying leaflet "Children First" for more details and links to relevant resources).

Some of the procedure we have in place to safeguard children include the following areas:

Recruiting safe, suitable staff and volunteers to work with children

All staff and volunteers will go through an agreed recruitment procedure, which includes interviews, reference checks and Garda vetting. Our procedures are informed by Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice* document.

A written code of behaviour for staff and volunteers

A written code of behaviour ensures that our staff and volunteers will treat children positively. It outlines that children will not be verbally abused or demeaned and gives specific guidance on what is and isn't appropriate in relation to contact with children.

Providing for intimate or personal care

In the case of young children, or those with a disability, there will be agreements with parents and children around their personal care needs.

Arrangements when taking children on outings, trips etc.

Parents and children will be informed of all arrangements, including transport, and your consent will be requested.

Social media

Procedures for safe use of social media for workers/volunteers and children operate in our service.

Managing and supervising staff and volunteers

All staff and volunteers will receive both informal and formal supervision to support the work that they undertake with children. We have a disciplinary procedure and a procedure for dealing with allegations of abuse by staff.

Regular training for staff and volunteers

All workers will have Child Safeguarding Training appropriate to their role. There is a universally available e-learning programme called 'Introduction to Children First' on the Tusla website. Additional training will also be accessed through various sectors and Tusla Children First Information and Advice Officers, where appropriate.

Complaints procedure

If you have concerns about how our service is run: Speak to the manager of the service. If you are unhappy with the response make a formal written complaint to the head of the service or management committee.

Reporting concerns to Tusla about children's protection or welfare

This service has a reporting procedure. Under the Children First Act 2015 certain professional groups are listed as Mandated Persons for reporting of child abuse. However, as outlined in *Children First National Guidance 2017*, anyone working with children must respond to child protection or welfare concerns. Most organisations have a Designated Liaison Person who is responsible for seeking advice from the Tusla Duty Social Worker if there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare; when necessary they will make a formal report. Parents can also contact Tusla if they have concerns about their own child or any other child they know, or if they are in need of family support services.

Tusla can be contacted in relation to the following:

- Where there are child protection concerns
- Breaches of the pre-school child care regulations
- Where a Child Safeguarding Statement is required by the Children First Act, 2015 and is not in place

(Contact details for Tusla services are available on tusla.ie)