



## CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

### COMMUNITY AFTER SCHOOLS PROJECTS

**ADMIN. OFFICE,1 PORTLAND SQUARE, DUBLIN 1.  
91,92 SEAN MAC DERMOTT STREET, DUBLIN 1.  
MOUNTJOY SQUARE PLAYCENTRE, MOUNTJOY SQ.,  
DUBLIN 1.**

### Organization details:

- Mount joy Square Play Centre (after school's service), Sean McDermott street (after school's service and Sessional creche). Administration/training offices, Portland Square.
- 22 Staff in Sean McDermott Street location.
- 8 Staff in Mount Joy Square Play center.
- 4 Staff in Administration/Training offices

### Services Provided:

- We have 2 After Schools Projects, catering for 3 local schools within the community.
- We provide homework support, sports, drama, Capacitar (a multicultural wellness program for children), doodle den (literacy program), arts and crafts and a fun filled summer program for 5 weeks.2-day residential trip included during the month of July.
- Each Thursday we run swimming lessons in the local community swimming pool, Sean Mac Dermott Street Project.
- The Community After Schools Projects (CASPr) is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to provide a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop.
- Our Service believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- Our policies and procedures to safeguard children reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First -Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First act 2015.
- We will review or child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

<u>RISK IDENTIFIED</u>	<u>Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage risk</u>
Unsuitable staff working with children	Garda vetting policy, staff/volunteer recruitment policy, 3-month probation period with review.
Aggressive behaviour	Code of behaviour for working with children for all staff/volunteers, code of conduct, induction period at beginning of employment
Collection of the children at our service	Registration form for each child attending our service with 2 named persons with consent to collect at end of day. collections policy/procedure.
Lack of knowledge of staff when a disclosure from a child within our service	Tusla e-learning child protection and welfare awareness training given to each member of staff on a one to one basis / DLP. contact details given to each member of staff and role explained in full.
Outings and trips with the children	Policies and procedure for managing trips and outings. child-adult appropriate ratio's as per children's first act 2015
Risk of Harm to a child by a visitor to our service	No unauthorized person/s can enter the building without checking into our office. The procedure is to sign in using the relevant book in place
Risk of Harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	Our service has in place a code of conduct for all staff and an age appropriate code of behaviour for all children attending our service.  We have a child friendly anti bullying policy which is explained to all our children in a child friendly manner. our general anti-bullying policy is strictly adhered to by all staff and volunteers.
Risk of Harm of a child through social media/Internet use	Children who are attending our service do not have access to computer/internet.  We have an anti cyber bullying policy which each child is fully aware,
Risk of Harm through the use of unauthorized Photography.	Our service does not allow the use of cameras, phones or any unauthorized record devices.  Our staff/volunteers do not have access to their mobile phones during working hours, as in our child protection policy.
Swimming pool/Showers	All staff are aware of their DUTY OF CARE through this activity as with all group activities. All staff to be aware of the outing policies and adhere to this.  Staff each aware of their role in swimming pool, i.e. poolside supervision and clear communication with each

	<p>other and leisure pool staff on open effective safety measures.</p> <p>Staff to be given clear role and understand the limits of their role.</p> <p>Staff to ensure that the children are appropriately supervised while showering and changing. Under no circumstances are there to be less than 2 members of staff at all times supervising the children during this time.</p>
<p><b>Risk of Harm (as identified in the Children First Act 2015) to a child caused by a lack of supervision</b></p>	<p>Our Risk Management Policy ensures all children attending our service appropriate supervised and protected.</p> <p>Our recruitment policy ensures hiring of appropriate and qualified Childcare Workers.</p> <p>Our Garda Vetting Policy ensures the hiring of suitable Childcare Workers.</p>
<p><b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to a child by a member of staff/volunteer from things they have done e.g. hurt a child, or failed to do e.g. not reporting a concern)</b></p>	<p>Our Policies and Procedures to safeguard children reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First-Child Safeguarding Guide 2017 and The Children First Act 2015.</p> <p>All Staff of The Community After Schools Projects have completed Children First E-learning Program. All Staff are aware of our Child Protection Policies / Procedures.</p>

## PROCEDURES

Our Safeguarding statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for policy, procedure and practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services;

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service.
- Procedure for provision of and access to Child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Appointed Child Protection officer our Outreach worker/D.L.P., Completed a level 8 certificate in Child Protection with the National Youth Council of Ireland (2016)
- A Relevant person has been appointed
- Confidentiality Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Policy for managing accidents and incidents
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in our service who are Mandated persons.

## IMPLEMENTATION

We recognize that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child safeguarding will be reviewed on: 02/03/24, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Date: 02/03/2022

(provider)

{Provider's Address} 1 Portland Square, Dublin 1

For queries, please contact: Ruth Breen

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

### D.L.P. (Designated Liaison Person)

Contact details are as follows:

- NAME: **Ruth Breen**
- CONTACT NUMBERS: 01-8366364,  
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- ADDRESS: 1, Portland Square, Dublin 1.