

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with ‘Risk of Harm’ as identified in 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.

1. SERVICE DETAILS

Service:	Donegal Travellers Project
Relevant Person and Manager	Siobhan McLaughlin (Project Manager)
DLP	Siobhan McLaughlin 086 1741056
Deputy DLP	Anna Scully (Community Development, Policy, and Communications Worker) 0864668433
Our registered service provides the following services for children:	Educational Support, Youthwork, Family Support, Access Services, Advocacy and Support, Housing and Accommodation, Primary Healthcare, Child and Family Welfare Support, Homelessness Support, Afterschools/ Homework Club, Preschool, Family Days, Summer/Easter/Halloween Programmes, Parent and Child Groups, Parenting Plus Programmes, Domestic Violence Support, Interagency Work, Drugs and Alcohol Support, Family Visits/Neighbourhood Work, Delivering Workshops/Training in Educational Settings, Events, All Other Community Development Activities
The management structure is:	DTP is managed by a voluntary Board of Management who works with the Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager to direct the work of the organization.
Storage of records:	We store incidents of concern in an incident log which is locked in a filing cabinet.
Access to records:	Staff Management Dedicated Administration Lead Development Workers (case work only)

2. NATURE OF SERVICE AND PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

(brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):

Donegal Travellers Project is a locally based community development and human rights organisation of Travellers and Roma. We work in a range of services and areas including community development, health, early years and adult education, housing and accommodation, youth work, information and advocacy, family links support work, interculturalism and anti-racism training.

The management of Donegal Travellers Project believe that the best interests of children and young people attending our service are paramount. We believe that all children attending our service have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them.

WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN:

- 1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
- 2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
- 3. All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- 4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- 5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- 6. Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for risk of harm to a child while availing of our services as defined in the Children First Act (CFA 2015). Below is a list of the areas of risk identified, examples and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

RISK OF HARM IDENTIFIED	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE IDENTIFIED RISK
1. Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/ volunteer. For example: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse (staff procedure document attached).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recruitment and selection policy and proceduresGarda vetting, reference checksChild Safeguarding Statement and staff guidelines (this document)Governance policies and proceduresInduction process.Completion of Children First training
2. Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service. For example: emotional/verbal abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accompaniment by staff at all timesMaintain a signed visitors book with contact detailsBy invitation only
3. Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through the use of unauthorised photography. For example: inappropriate exposure of the child through the taking of inappropriate/ sexually explicit images of the child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The use of Internet and Photographic Recording Devices policy and procedures, Staff code of behaviour, parental permission procedures, data sharing agreement in place.
4. Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through social media/internet use. For example: exposure of child to content of an explicit or age-inappropriate nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The use of Internet and Photographic Recording Devices policy and proceduresStaff code of conduct and behaviourParental permission procedures.
5. Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/ stranger/peer. For example: injury due to poor supervision or neglect of the child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outings policy and proceduresAppropriate adult:child ratiosOutdoor play policy and proceduresRisk management policySpecific risk assessments carried out as required.
6. Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) due to the failure of recognition of abuse, mismanagement of abuse or failure to report suspicions or allegations of abuse to Tusla. For example: harm to child due to lack of training and/or poor or reporting procedures to Tusla.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children First Child Protection training for all staffChild Safeguarding Statement and staff guidelines (this document)Risk Management policyStaff Supervision policyOngoing access to continuing professional development, training records maintained.Statutory obligation to report concerns cooperate with Tusla.Appointing and maintaining a list of Mandated persons, Relevant person and Designated Liaison personsProportionate sharing of records with Tusla.
7. Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) due to a failure to record appropriate information. For example: delayed support to the child due to poor recording systems and reporting procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Child Safeguarding Statement and staff guidelines (this document)Accident/incident logbookComplaints policy and procedureGood record keeping.

RISK OF HARM IDENTIFIED	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE IDENTIFIED RISK
8. Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) due to a failure to supervise children For example: injury due to neglect or poor supervision by adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adherence to appropriate adult:child ratios for various age groupsAccident and Incident PolicySafe management of activities.
9. Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) due to bullying, cyber bullying or identity bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/ peer. The following types of bullying behaviour are included in this non-exhaustive list: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Deliberate exclusion, malicious gossip and other forms of relational bullyingIdentity-based bullying such as homophobic bullying, transphobic bullying, racist bullying, bullying based on a person’s membership of the Traveller Community and bullying of those with disabilities or special educational needs andCyber bullying which incorporates bullying of any sort including on any social media networks or platforms. For example: emotional harm caused by psychological abuse or bullying.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Behaviour Management PolicyComplaints Policy and ProcedureThe use of Internet and Photographic Recording Devices Policy and ProceduresAnti-bullying and Harassment Policy.

Our Child 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 service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- 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;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed and related policy documents are available upon request.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

We maintain a list of mandated persons in our policy document attached and the relevant person is the Provider/Manager as below.

The DLP for Donegal Travellers Project is Siobhan McLaughlin, in her absence she will appoint another staff member.

Signed:
Siobhan McLaughlin
(Project Manager)
05 February 2025



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For queries, please contact the Relevant Person named above as under the Children First Act 2015. The statement is used in conjunction with our full guideline document for staff which includes procedures and policy signposting.

Children First

Child Safeguarding Procedures

Our child safeguarding statement specifies the service we provide and the principles and procedures we adhere to, ensuring, as far as possible, that a child availing of our early childhood service is safe from harm.