

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Nenagh Arts Centre is a venue that provides a location for activities such as performance, workshops & classes for people of all ages.

We are committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child/young person is paramount. We will adhere to the recommendations of Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, published by the Department of Health and Children.

Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.

We will review our 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.

<b>DLP:</b> Eva Birdthistle	<b>Deputy:</b> Michelle Donnellan
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## Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board of Management/Service Provider has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Workshop leaders, artists and volunteers unsuitable for working with children	Implement procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workshop leaders, artists and volunteers to work with children, including Garda vetting and adherence to child protection policies.
2	Workshop leaders, artists and volunteers ill-equipped to safeguard children from harm	Implement procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information
3a	Child unsure about how or to whom to report an issue to	Ensure reporting procedures are accessible and easily available.
3b	Person unsure as to how or to whom to voice a concern about a child at risk	

4	Inappropriate use or dissemination of children's images or information	Ensure all staff and volunteers adhere to social/media procedures including consent sought for the taking and use of images.
5	Child leaving the venue or space without adult supervision.	Ensure more than one staff/facilitator is available and does not allow a child to leave unsupervised.

## Policies & Procedures

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.

- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
- Confidentiality Policy
- Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records
- Recruitment Policy
- Garda Vetting Policy
- Code of Behaviour for Working with Children
- Induction Policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures)
- All staff will complete the Tusla eLearning module – Introduction to Children First and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training.

## Implementation and Review

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

This statement has been published on the service website and is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

**Signed:**

**Date: 9th March 2018**

**Service Provider's name and contact details:**

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