

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service: Linenhall Arts Centre

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

Here at the Linenhall Arts Centre we provide an arts service for all in our community including children. Our service for children includes arts based workshops, rehearsals, facilitated gallery visits, and performances.

We are committed to a child-centred approach in 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 adhere to the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, published by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and our procedures to safeguard and protect children and young people reflect national policy and legislation.

These principles apply to everyone in our organisation.

3. Risk assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks:

Risk Identified		Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	Recruitment of staff working with children.	Recruitment procedure updated and implemented, Garda Vetting required, and relevant Child Safeguarding training offered to staff.
2.	Long term employees growing rusty in relation to Child Safeguarding procedures	Annual updating of staff in relation to Child Safeguarding policies and procedures.

4. Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance*, 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 (See p. 5 of our Child Safeguarding Policy)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children. (See p.7 of our Child Safeguarding Policy)

- Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (See p.8 of our Child Safeguarding Policy)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla (See p.5 of our Child Safeguarding Policy)
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person (See p.7 of our Child Safeguarding Policy)

All procedures listed are available on request.

5. Implementation:

We recognise 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 Statement will be reviewed on 1 April 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: *Lorraine Gannon*
Chairperson

Linenhall Arts Centre,
Linenhall St,
Castlebar
Co Mayo

For queries please contact Orla Henihan, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015