

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service: The Linenhall Arts Centre G.L.C.
2. We at the Linenhall Arts Centre are committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. We create opportunities for children & young people up to 18 years old, along with their families and friends or with their school, to engage with cultural activities. Our events programme runs throughout the year. We commission, produce and present work for, by and about children and young people. Through our work with leading Irish and international artists children can enjoy performances, view exhibitions or participate in creative workshops. We also work with other like-minded organisations to advance children's rights to art and culture as part of their learning and development. 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 Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), published by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This policy is informed by the Children First Act 2015.

Our policy is published on our website and is available from the Linenhall Arts Centre office.

3. Risk assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. 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 identified risk
1	Risk of Harm (As defined in the children's first Act 2015) of a child by a member of Staff/ Freelance worker/Volunteer	Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of all personnel who work with children. Procedure for training and supporting all personnel, along with a code of behaviour are in place. Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee
2	Risk of Harm (As defined in the children's first Act 2015) by bullying to a child by older child or peer	All Linenhall staff will be Garda Vetted, have undertaken Tusla training and agreed to our Child Protection Policy (CPP). Procedure for bullying, along with code of behavior are in place. Group contracts created with participants on all Programmes
3	Risk of Harm (As defined in the children's first Act 2015) to a child by visitor to the service	All external organisations must provide written confirmation that Garda Vetting of attending facilitators/directors/producers etc has been undertaken and that they have agreed to LAC CPP They must agree to: more than one facilitator present at all times, all participants' emergency contact details are taken. For performance All Linenhall staff will be Garda Vetted, have undertaken Tusla training and agreed to our Child Protection Policy (CPP). No children under 12 are admitted unaccompanied. Any observation or evidence of assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse will be promptly reported to LAC Designated Liaison Person (DLP). Show content has parental/guardian approval.
4	Risk of Harm (As defined in the children's first act 2015) to a child on outings, by a member of staff, volunteer, stranger or peers.	All Linenhall staff will be Garda Vetted, have undertaken Tusla training and agreed to our (CPP). Risk Assessment for Venues, Events and Trips

		Group and Individual Behaviour Contracts
5	Risk of Harm (As defined in the children's first Act 2015) by unauthorised photography	Ensure all staff adheres to social/media procedures including consent sought for the taking and use of images. All data on children comes under Linenhall Arts Centre GDPR Privacy Policy
6	Risk of Harm (As defined in the Children's first Act 2015) to a child through social media or internet use	Staff will never communicate on a 1-2-1 basis with a child by text, email or social media. Older teenagers may, in agreement with parents, communicate with staff using group platform. Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to be added to these forms of communications. Care must be taken with group platforms so they themselves do not become a vehicle for bullying.
7	Risk of Harm (As defined in the Children's First Act 2015) through lack of supervision	All Linenhall staff will be Garda Vetted, have undertaken Tusla training and agreed to our Child Protection Policy (CPP). All toilet visits are supervised. All children's performances are designated with a recommended age suitability. All social media, press and brochures carry the age recommendation. Adults are informed when booking of age recommendation. No children under 12 are admitted unaccompanied. Any observation or evidence of assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse will be promptly reported to LAC Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

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)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons. (See p.28 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 26 June 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: *Lorraine Gannon*

Date: 24/06/2024

Chair
Linenhall Arts Centre,
Linenhall St,
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For queries please contact Deirdre Melvin, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015 Tel: 094 902 3733 or email access@thelinenhall.com