Monaghan Integrated Development
Child Safeguarding Statement

This document outlines the steps Monaghan Integrated Development takes to safeguard children. For any queries about it please contact:

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- Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where it is necessary for the State to intervene to keep children safe, the minimum intervention necessary should be used.
- Children should only be separated from parents/carers when alternative means of protecting them have been exhausted.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.

1. 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 identified risk
1	A staff member or volunteer could harm a child or young person by not maintaining boundaries, behaving inappropriately or developing an inappropriate relationship with them during or outside of activities	• All staff and Volunteers are subject to our recruitment process and under Garda Vetting if engaged in "relevant work" • Child Safeguarding Training – Tusla eLearning module for all staff • Further Safeguarding training for staff identified by team leaders as working regularly with children • Code of Behaviour for Staff & Volunteers • Incident Reporting Policy & Procedures in place • Procedure in place for handling allegations of abuse against staff or volunteers • Disciplinary Policy & Procedures in place • Reporting Policy & Procedure in place
2	A member of the organisation fails to report an issue or concern of harm in relation to a child or young person engaging in MID	• The DLP and deputy DLP are made known to all staff and procedures for reporting are in place.

5	A child or young person could be harmed if the organisation failed to provide a physically safe environment leading to accidents or incidents	• Health & Safety Policy & Procedures in place • Risk assessments conducted for all activities involving children • Insurance cover is adequate • Incident reporting Policy & Procedures in Place • Ratios and supervision standards are in line with best practice • Selected staff are trained First Aiders
	A child or young person may be harmed if the organisation fails to manage situations appropriately i.e. where adult members of the public may be on the premises or be encountered during activities/events. This might include adults taking part in activities aimed at families or open to both adults and children/young people.	• Health & Safety Policy & Procedures in place • Sign in/out system operating in all premises • Risk assessments conducted for all new & external venues • Adequate levels of supervision maintained at all times
	A child or young person may be harmed if they leave the group unattended or if they are collected by an inappropriate person (flight and kidnapping concerns)	• Consent forms are signed by guardians outlining who is deemed as an approved person to collect a young person or if they are allowed to walk home from the group. • Adequate levels of supervision maintained at all times • All necessary staff are advised of areas of concern in relation to a child or young person who may be at risk of being collected by an unapproved person.

2. 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*. 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;