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TYRONE GUTHRIE CENTRE CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

Introduction

This Child Safeguarding Statement is prepared in accordance with the Children First Act 2015, and the Children First National Guidance. It sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child volunteering or working with the Centre is safe from harm.

Relevant Services Provided

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre does not provide services directly to children under the age of 18, but it may, from time to time, employ staff under the age of 18. In addition, the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, in accordance with its stated remit to engage with local communities, supports the development of the potential of children and young people and may facilitate the placement of Transition Year students (TY students) for short unpaid periods of work experience. The Tyrone Guthrie Centre is committed to safeguarding all those under 18 years old working or training in the Centre, in line with Children First legislation and best practice.

Obligations under the Children First Act 2015 in Relation to Relevant Services (TY Students)

Where a Transition year student is supported by the Tyrone Guthrie Centre through work experience, the Transition year student is the responsibility of the Resident Director, or a delegated person, for the duration of the placement.

As the placement of transition year students in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre is considered to be a relevant service to children under the Act [paragraph 5(a) of Schedule 1 in relation to the provision of training opportunities to children], the following principles, and obligations apply:

- a) To keep the child safe from harm while receiving the service [i.e. on placement];¹
- b) To assess the risks to the child;
- c) To address those risks, as required by the Act, in the Department's Child Safeguarding Statement.

The nature of transition year student work placement and in particular, the aim to provide the broadest working experience to the transition year student, means that these students may come into contact with a range of people, including staff, members of the Board of Directors, public representatives, suppliers, members of the public, and/or other interest groups etc.

Relevant or Mandated Person

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre has appointed as relevant persons for the purposes of the Children First Act, a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) in keeping with best practice in child safeguarding. They are the resource persons for any child

¹ Harm as defined under Part 1 (2) and Schedule 3 of the Children First Act 2015.
https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf

protection concerns within the Centre. They are responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures within the organisation are followed, so that child welfare and protection concerns are referred promptly to Tusla. They will act as a point of contact for reporting child protection concerns and will liaise with outside agencies, as required.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Dr Éimear O'Connor
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is:

Risks Attaching to Transition Year Students

	Risks identified	Procedures in place to manage identified risks
1.	Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff/Board of Directors/residents	Risk assessment prior to placement: the transition year student should not be left unsupervised. The student should not have access to any information, physical or digital, which would not be suitable for viewing by a minor.
2.	That the student may be harmed by external suppliers/members of the public	The student must be supervised/accompanied at all times.
3.	Risk of harm or concern not being reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff information/supervision/training; provision of information for all staff/Board of Directors on child safeguarding in the workplace. • Written reporting procedure (known to all staff and Board of Directors) • Consultation with service users – TY students; provision of Child Safeguarding Statement to TY

		students.
4.	Risk of non-compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and National Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person • Compliance assurance process • Awareness of updates to public policy pertaining to child safety • Updating of Child Safety Statement on a biannual basis

Mitigation of Risk

The procedures in place to mitigate the risks outlined earlier are as follows:

- 1) On induction to the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, all TY students will:
 - a) Be given a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement, which will be explained to them in detail in relation to TY placements;
 - b) Be given the names and contact details of the Designated and Deputy Designated Liaison Persons who will be the person/s to whom they can raise any issues of concern pertaining to abuse, bullying, or appropriate behaviour;
 - c) Be given a copy of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre Health and Safety Statement;
 - d) Be given a copy of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre Internet Access Policy;
 - e) Be given a copy of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre CCTV Policy;
 - f) Be given a copy of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre Dignity at Work Policy.

Responsibility: Resident Director

- 2) The DLP or Deputy DLP (in the absence of the DLP) will be obliged to make contact with the TY student half way through their placement, and again on its conclusion.
- 3) All staff/Board of Directors to whom the TY student is assigned, will have received, and signed a copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement.

- 4) In determining the placement of TY students, care will be taken to ensure placement in areas of work in which the nature of the work is appropriate for children.
- 5) The DLP and Deputy DLP will undertake *Ireland's National Child Protection and Welfare Guidance* E-Learning training to assist them with the determination of risks and possible harm <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>
- 6) Staff and members of the Board of Directors to whom it is proposed to assign TY students will undertake *Ireland's National Child Protection and Welfare Guidance* E-Learning training to assist them with the determination of risks and possible harm <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>
- 7) Staff/members of the Board of Directors who may have TY students allocated to them for work experience will have their role risk assessed (by the Resident Director/and/or the Chairperson of the Board of Directors)
- 8) The Child Safeguarding Statement will be available to parents/guardians on any TY student or person under the age of 18 undertaking work experience with the Tyrone Guthrie Centre

Procedures

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf> , *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017) <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation/> , and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure, and Practice* [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla - Child Safeguarding - A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Child_Safeguarding_-_A_Guide_for_Policy,_Procedure_and_Practice.pdf) . In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing our service:

- Written procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers/external suppliers etc;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure in respect of any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission, or circumstance in respect of a child availing of the relevant service in accordance with Section 11 (3) (b) of the Children First Act 2015;
- Procedure for 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

Employment and Volunteers under the age of 18 Years (other than TY students)

The employment of staff does not fall with the definition of the provision of relevant services to children as set out in Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015.

However, in the case of staff that may be under the age of 18, the Tyrone Guthrie Centre is committed to best practice in relation to child safeguarding.

The risks to underage staff and volunteers are considered to be identical to those applying to TY students, as set out above, and in that context, the mitigations set out above, and the procedures set out above, will apply to all staff and volunteers under the age of 18 years.

The reporting of any concerns will be made in accordance with the Tyrone Guthrie Centre’s Children First Reporting Protocol which provides a framework for reporting to the DLP or Deputy DLP of any incidents/reports that arise.

Implementation

The implementation of this policy is primarily the responsibility of the Designated and Deputy Designated Liaison Persons.

However, it is also the responsibility of all staff/members of the Board of Directors of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, particularly those who are providing relevant services to children.

Review

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if there has been a material change in any of the issues to which it refers.

Signed *Éimear O'Connor*

Date of first review	Comments	Signed off by:
26 May 2021		<i>Éimear O'Connor</i>
Next review due: May 2023.		

