

1. CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT (CSS)

Name of service being provided: Ragoon Family Centre

The Ragoon Family Centre is committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of Young People in our care.

- Our policies and guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.

Board of Directors

Manager Ger Wilson

Programme Co-ordinator Sylvia O'Connor

Youth Workers and Volunteers/ Students/ Visitors

- *Our Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) & (DDPL) for Child Protection are:*

DLP Liaison Person: Ger Wilson

DDLP Liaison Person: Sylvia O'Connor

*Our purpose is to provide a Young person-centred environment where the rights of young people are central to their active and voluntary participation. During which time the needs of children and youth are supported by **creating a Secure Base** where Young People can have access to Youth Workers who will respect them for who they are. While **providing a Safe Haven** where young people 'Feel' safe and valued, where they can disclose their concerns and learn how to become resilient and autonomous. We also aim to offer a pathway for families to access more formal supportive services when necessary.*

Our Guiding principles to safeguard children from harm:

Ragoon Family Centre carries out its youth work in a safe and supportive stimulating environment, that is conducive with supporting the youths social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

- Our priority is to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attend our service, is paramount.
- Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation will be reviewed annually or after any material change in which the statement refers.
- All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm, to be listened to and to be heard.
- Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.
- Our outings are determined by the appropriate regulations under The Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) Regulations 2018.

2. Risk Assessment

As part of our commitment to safeguard Young People and youth, we have carried out a risk assessment of any potential harm to a young people while attending our centre. We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to a child while availing of our services. The following list outlines the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing these risks.

Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015)

Procedure in place to manage identified risk

HARM from Neglect and Abuse

- Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy
- Garda Vetting Procedure/Policy
- Recruitment Training Procedure/Policy
- Social Inclusion Procedure/Policy
- Procedure/Policy on Managing Behaviour
- Reporting Procedure /Policy /Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers
- Code of Behaviour for Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy
- Staff Training & Supervision Procedure/Policy
- Complaints Procedure/Policy

HARM from Bullying / Peer to Peer Abuse on Social Media & Unauthorised photography

(i.e. verbal, psychological or physical aggression between young people)

- We have an Anti-Bullying policy and Code of Behaviour for Working with Children.
- We have a Social Media Code of Conduct. This is discussed and agreed with youth depending on age of young people.
- Policy/Procedure on the use of the Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices
- Social Media Procedure/Policy
- Retention of Records and Right to be forgotten Procedure/Policy
- Ongoing staff training related to online risks when possible.
- We have a Confidentiality Policy and Comment box in hallway where anyone can make anonymous comments.

HARM from Serious ill-health during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- Staff have completed the HSA COVID-19 induction training and follow our COVID-19 Response Plan (see COVID response folder).
- Our Play Pods will adhere to the social distance guidelines.
- Parents/guardians are advised to inform staff if they or the youth has contracted the virus or if the youth has been in contact with someone with the illness.
- Parents/guardians are advised to contact their GP to confirm or rule out any infectious virus.
- Our COVID response cleaning procedure will be implemented and maintained.
- Procedure for reporting notifiable infectious diseases to HSA, HSE and/or Tusla.

HARM on Outings

- Outings Procedure/Policy
- Risk Management Procedure/Policy
- Staff Training Procedure/Policy
- Critical Incident Procedure/Policy

HARM from Unannounced visitors maintenance/repairs/deliveries)

- Risk Management Procedure/Policy
- Supervision of Children Procedure/Policy
- Visitor Signing in Procedure/Policy / Safety Statement Procedure/Policy

3. Procedure

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.

The procedures listed in our Risk Assessment and the Specified Procedures below support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

1. All staff, volunteers and Directors are made aware of these policies and procedures.
**Please note: In the course of their duties our Board of Directors, have no access to children within the Project.*
2. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
3. Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
4. Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
5. Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against
6. workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
7. Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
8. Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person.
9. This Child safeguarding Statement will be displayed prominently.

All procedures will be made available to staff, parents, young people, members of the public and Tusla, if requested.

4. Implementation and Review


Our Young people Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Young People First Act 2015, the Young People First: National Guidance and Tusla's Young people Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this "Young people 's Safeguarding Statement" and the procedures that keep youth safe from harm while attending our centre.

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

* *Signed:*  *(Provider of the Relevant Service)*

Michael Timmons Chairperson/ Board of Management

* *Signed:*  *(Provider of the Relevant Service)*

Ger Wilson Manager

For queries, please contact Sylvia O'Connor, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, who is the first point of contact regarding this Child Safeguarding Statement.

Date: September 2020

*Reviewed 21st Sept -
- 2020*

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency