

Tipperary Arts Office Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of Organisation:
Tipperary Arts Office, Tipperary County Council, Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The Tipperary Arts Office strives to broaden and deepen access to the arts and to further develop strategies for sustainable engagement, creating an environment where the arts will continue to thrive. It is our aim to continue to build connections, programmes and policies to ensure that the arts in Tipperary are a central element of civic life in the County.

The Arts Service is led and managed by the Arts Officer, with support provided by staff employed by the Council and a range of freelance contractors.

The Service works towards the continuing development of the arts in the County by providing:

- Advice and Information
- Arts Policy Development
- Grants and Schemes for the Arts
- A Developmental Arts Programme

As part of our role we provide funding for services for children as follows:

The Tipperary Artist in Primary School scheme

The aim of this scheme is to give pupils in primary schools all over the County the opportunity to work with a professional artist on a once-off unique project to be originated and planned between the artist and the school. Arts Office personnel visit the schools to view the progress of the project.

Post-primary schools exhibition loan and printmaking workshops

We offer post-primary schools throughout Tipperary an opportunity to borrow an exhibition of thirty two contemporary prints by Irish artists for cultural and educational purposes. Printmaking workshops are offered to participating schools while the exhibition is in the school.

Festivals and Events Grant Scheme

We provide funding to Festivals and Events throughout the county where children may be present.

Youth Theatre Funding

We provide funding to Nenagh Arts Centre and The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, to run Youth Theatre workshops in the county.

Tipperary Arts Office is committed to ensuring that children are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Arts Office. This includes ensuring appropriate policies and procedures are in place and that any concerns are reported and recorded appropriately.

These policies have been developed in line with the requirements under the:

- Children First Act 2015
- Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)
- TUSLA’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Tipperary Arts Office ensure our staff have received Child Safeguarding training, are aware of their obligations and comply with Child Safeguarding policies and procedures. We ensure that appropriate recruitment procedures and Garda Clearance are in place.

As a condition of funding Tipperary Arts Office ask artists and organisations working with children to submit their Child Safeguarding Statement and policies.

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	Procedures in place to manage identified risk
1. Risk of harm not being recognised by staff/contractors.	Mandatory reading and signing of the Service’s Child Safeguarding Statement and policies. Provision of and access to Child Safeguarding training and information including Tusla’s online Child Protection Training – Children First E-Learning module.
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by staff/contractors.	All personnel are provided with procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns in a timely manner to Designated Liaison Person/Tusla/Gardai through the Council’s Child protection policy. Including information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person.
3. Risk of young person being harmed by staff, contractors	Provision for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and contractors including procedure for Garda Vetting. The likelihood of staff/contractors being on their own with a child is very low. Code of behaviour for staff/contractors is included in the Dignity at Work Policy.

4. Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person.	Code of behaviour for staff/contractors included in anti-bullying and harassment policy. The likelihood of staff/contractors being on their own with a child is very low.
5. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	Consent to use of images is requested from children and their parents/guardians. There is a social media policy in place. Use of photographs is limited to specific use and for specific purpose.
6. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data	Use of personal data is limited and relates to specific projects and the General Data Protection Regulations policy applies. Communications and Confidentiality policy based on any interaction with public data applies.

4. 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;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available on request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 7th April 2023

or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (Provider)

(Provider's name and contact details) Melanie Scott, Arts Officer. Tel: 052 61 66449/087-2779228.

For queries, please contact Padraig Ryan, Senior Social Worker, Nenagh Office.
Tel: 052 61 66947/087-9766519

(Relevant Person) Contact details and name of Relevant Person for the organisation under the Children First Act 2015.