

# Child Safeguarding Statement

The O'Connell Adult Education Centre is an Adult Education Centre providing education and training opportunities to young people and adults from age 15 upwards.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Management of The O'Connell Adult Education Centre has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Sinéad Geary**.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Joe Brennan**.
- 4 The Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of centre life and must be reflected in all the centre's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the centre will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The centre will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The centre will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
  - In relation to 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 attending the centre, the centre adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child

Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for centre staff which are published on the DES website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the centre adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the centre-
  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the centre's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the centre's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board Member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all centre personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this centre, the Kerry ETB management has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the centre are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, management has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the centre or participating in centre activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the centre's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the centre's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the centre.

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the centres in question.

- 6 This statement has been published on the centre's website and has been provided to all members of centre personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

- 7 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 this statement refers.

Signed: Shirley Shuler

Adult Education Officer

Signed: Shirley Shuler

Centre Manager

Date: 01/05/18

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