

ARTS COUNCIL CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Name of service /organisation Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon
2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The Arts Council is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. The Council recognises that the arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to our evolving society. Established in 1951, to stimulate public interest in and promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, the Council is an autonomous body, which is under the aegis of the Department of Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht.

The Arts Council is a voluntary body of 12 members and a chair, appointed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Arts Council has currently 50 employees, 14 Arts Advisers, as well as temporary agency workers/project workers/contract workers from time to time.

The Arts Council is committed to creating opportunities for children and young people to participate in the arts and recognises the importance of its role in creating a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of children availing of services.

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	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	Arts Council members, staff and advisers visit arts projects and events which are organised by artists, groups and organisations that are applicants, funded and/or grant aided. However, the council member, staff or Adviser would be a guest/audience member/observer and very unlikely to have lone contact with children.	Updated Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures, which include a code of behaviour between workers and children, safe recruitment procedures, vetting, provision of information and training. All Arts Council staff and advisers will be required to read the updated policy document and sign to confirm understanding and agreement.

2.	<p>The Arts Council hosts events which are open to the public, for example; Culture Night.</p> <p>Events are open to all members of the public. Young children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Older children (16 and 17-year old's) could attend events unaccompanied.</p> <p>Arts Council staff members from all departments of the organisation supervise the event on a volunteer basis.</p>	<p>Updated Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures, which include a code of behaviour between workers and children, safe recruitment procedures, vetting, provision of information and training.</p> <p>All Arts Council staff will be required to read the updated policy document and sign to confirm understanding and agreement.</p> <p>All events that are open to the public will have some garda vetted staff supervising.</p>
3.	<p>A project to support the arts in schools is being provided by the Arts Council and the services will be delivered by Creative Associates, who are contracted by the Council.</p> <p>The role of Creative Associate will involve working directly with children and young people in a school environment. It is possible that, on occasion Creative Associates may have lone contact with children and young people while carrying out their work.</p>	<p>Updated Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures, which include a code of behaviour between workers and children, safe recruitment procedures, vetting, provision of information and training.</p> <p>Creative Associates will be required to read the updated policy document and sign to confirm understanding and agreement.</p>
4.	<p>The Arts Council provides work experience placements to young people who are in transition year at school.</p> <p>Young people on work experience within the Arts Council carry out administrative tasks alongside staff working within the office.</p>	<p>Young people on work experience placement will be placed in offices with Arts Council staff who are Garda vetted.</p> <p>Updated Child Protection and Welfare Policies and Procedures, includes a code of behaviour between workers and children.</p> <p>All Arts Council staff will be required to read the updated policy document and sign to confirm understanding and agreement.</p>
5.	<p>The Arts Council provides funding and grant aid to a wide range of arts organisations, groups and individual artists who work with children and young people.</p>	<p>The Arts Council is implementing a Child Protection and Welfare Quality Assurance Framework.</p> <p>Funded and grant aided organisations, groups and individual artists who work with children will be required to submit a Child Protection and Welfare Self-Audit, which will provide</p>

		<p>evidence regarding compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance 2017.</p> <p>The Arts Council will review the information provided and measure compliance with legislation and national guidance using the QA framework.</p>
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4. Procedures


Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed above, the Arts Council has a comprehensive Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures document which supports our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service and includes:

1. The management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
2. The safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
3. The provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
4. The procedure for the reporting of child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla
5. A list of the persons in the service who are mandated persons
6. Details of the 'relevant person' within the organisation

A copy of the Arts Council Policy and Procedures is available on the website (www.artscouncil.ie)

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 Safety Statement will be reviewed in February 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 
On behalf of the Arts Council

Arts Council
70, Merrion Square
Dublin 2

For queries, in relation to the Arts Council, Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact

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(Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015)