



Child Safeguarding Statement

Candle Community Trust is a Community project based in Dublin 10, providing formal and non-formal educational, developmental and therapeutic programmes for young people age 10-24 years.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, Candles Child Protection Procedures and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Candle has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Brian Johnston
- 2 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is Dervella McNee
- 3 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of the work of the project and must be reflected in all of Candles policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, Candle will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

Candle 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.

- 4 In accordance with the Children’s First Act 2015, the Board has 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	Unsuitable adults having access to young people	Adherence to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children’s and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. Reference check and recruitment procedures. Visitor policy.
2	Non reporting of concerns due to risk of harm not being recognised by staff/volunteers	Induction for all staff. Child protection training for all staff. Provide each member of staff with a copy of the projects safeguarding statement and display to the public.
3	Risk of inappropriate behaviour on overnight residential trips	Policy guidelines for residential trips. Staff planning. Risk assessment of accommodation as part of residential/trips policy/guidelines. Adequate adult supervision for duration of trip.
4	Risk of inappropriate or abusive behaviour by staff, volunteers or students	Garda vetting for all staff/tutors/volunteers/students. Induction for all staff. Child protection training for all staff. Clarity of roles (job descriptions) for staff/volunteers. Code of behaviour/conduct for staff and volunteers.
5	Appropriate management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff, volunteers or students	Child protection training for managers and DLP’s. Clearly defined CP and HR policies and procedures that include the role and responsibility of Boards to manage.
6	Risk of harm from accessing inappropriate materials online	IT policy for staff and young people (to include mobile phone and social media usage). Level of staff supervision. Online safety training for staff. Appropriate internet filters.

5 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 the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

6 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 March 1st 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ (Provider)

Brian Johnston

Director

For queries, please contact Brian Johnston, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

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