

# Child Safeguarding Statement – Pobail le Chéile C.D.P clg.

## 1. Our Purpose and Principles

Pobail le Chéile and its Youth Work aims to offer children & young people the opportunities to learn and develop through youth work processes in a safe and enjoyable way.

Pobail le Chéile is a youth and community development organisation that operates an integrated Youth Service Model providing services and programmes to young people from 5 years to 25 years and the adult volunteers that support them.

## 2. Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:

Pobail le Chéile is committed to the principles laid out in the Children First Act 2015; the National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and TUSLA's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. These are:

- The Safety and Welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm.
- Children have the right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking into account their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents and carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.

## 3. Risk assessment of potential harm to children whilst availing of our programmes & services:

Pobail le Chéile has included the risk of harm to a child as a new category to the company's Risk Management Policy & Procedures. A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to identify potential areas of harm and to implement measures to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management process.

## 4. Procedures

Pobail le Chéile's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and TUSLA's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedures and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children whilst they are availing of our programmes and services.

- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff/volunteers who work with young people
- Procedure for information and training with regard to safeguarding of children, young people and/or vulnerable adults, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child while availing of our service
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Pobail le Chéile 'Mandated Persons'
- Procedure for appointing a Pobail le Chéile 'relevant person' (**Paul Kernan** – Designated Liaison Person)

## 5. Implementation:

Pobail le Chéile 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change to any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

Phyl O'Connor

Company Chairperson