

Child Safeguarding Statement

1 December, 2023

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1.0 Introduction

This Child Safeguarding Statement provides an overview of the measures that Localise has in place to ensure that children participating in our programmes are protected from harm.

2.0 Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Localise Youth Volunteering enables young people aged 11 – 18 to make a difference in their community by answering the call to help others. Through our programmes young people experience the power of giving back as they directly benefit those in need.

Localise has as its foremost priority the welfare and safety of its youth participants. We are committed to providing a safe environment for young people enabling them through their volunteer work to care in their community. Localise has a number of procedures in place designed to safeguard every young member involved in our programmes. Our staff and adult volunteers endeavour to ensure that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm while taking part in any of the Localise Programmes.

Safe practice in our work is essential and Localise have the following procedures and guidelines for good practice, which govern our work:

- Mandatory Garda Vetting and Child Protection Training for all Localise personnel and adult volunteers.
- Localise Code of Good Youth Work Practice which applies to all Localise personnel and adult volunteers.
- Localise Health and Safety Policy
- Localise Volunteer’s Charter
- Localise Community Group’s Affiliation Policy
- Localise Virtual Meeting Policy

3.0 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 Identified Risk
Bullying of a child: Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Policy • Child Protection Awareness Training • Complaints Procedure
Risk of harm including assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that could seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Policy • Garda Vetting Policy • Complaints Procedure • Child Protection Awareness Training
Risk of harm of online abuse through social media and/ or unauthorised photography.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Policy • Virtual Meeting Policy • Garda Vetting Policy • Complaints Procedure • Child Protection Awareness Training

4.0 Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the 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 are available on our website or upon request.

5.0 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 Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 01/12/2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

6.0 Signatory

Signed:





Derek Cleary

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