

féile ealaíne an

earagail
arts
festival
www.eaf.ie
Made In Donegal

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service provided:

Earagail Arts Festival

2. Nature of Service and Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The Earagail Arts Festival is a bilingual (Irish and English language), multidisciplinary summer festival which takes place each July throughout County Donegal along the Wild Atlantic Way on the north-west coast of Ireland.

In accordance with the Children's First Act 2105 the Earagail Arts Festival will uphold and adhere to the outlined principles:

Principle 1: *The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.*

Principle 2: *The best interests of the child should be paramount.*

Principle 3: *The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm.*

Principle 4: *Interventions by the State should build on existing strengths and protective factors in the family.*

Principle 5: *Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where it is necessary or the State to intervene to keep children safe, the minimum intervention necessary should be used.*

Principle 6: *Children should only be separated from their parents or carers when alternative means of protecting them have been exhausted.*

Principle 7: *Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking into account their age and understanding, children should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.*

Principle 8: *Parents and carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.*

Principle 9: *A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents, carers and families. Where there is conflict, the child's welfare must come first.*

Principle 10: *Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.*

Earagail Arts Festival is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

3. Risk Assessment

The Earagail Arts Festival is committed to carrying out a risk assessment to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while receiving our services. 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. Non-compliance with Earagail Arts Festival Child Protection Policy	All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager. The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.
2. Risk of harm not being recognised	Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
3. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly.	All personnel are provided with procedures for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla. Including information on the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Persons
4. Receipt of complaints of alleged child abuse where a member of Earagail Arts Festival is the alleged perpetrator.	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Mandated Person or directly to Tusla. Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee.
5. Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian or teacher is the alleged perpetrator	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla.
6. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people	Policy on Adult/Young People Ratios Code of Behaviour for staff/volunteers
7. Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla
8. A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff	All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Person or directly to Tusla.

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 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 and a copy of the Child Protection & Welfare Policy are available upon request and online at www.eaf.ie

5. Implementation

We, Earagail Arts Festival, 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, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  _____

Name and contact details: Paul Brown, CEO/Artistic Director, Earagail Arts Festival, 2C Riverside, Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Ireland, F92 YN40

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Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.