



Child Safeguarding Statement

Dated: 7 October 2018

**Signed by Chairperson/Relevant Person on behalf of
management committee**

Name in Block Capitals__MARY FOU DY__

Review date: On or before 7th October 2020.

Section 1

Name of Organisation: Clare Suicide Bereavement (CSBS)

Section 2

Nature of service

This is a group of trained, non-professional volunteers who befriend and support individuals, families and communities bereaved by suicide. The suicide may be recent or in the past.

We provide the following services/activities to children and young people

The **CSBS** support the suicide bereaved in Clare by establishing and maintaining standards of good practice for the provision of voluntary listening support to families and/or persons bereaved by suicide death. This includes providing voluntary listening support to children under the age of 18.

Principles and commitment to safeguard children from harm

Our organisation believes that the best interests of children and young people attending our services are paramount. Our guiding principles are underpinned by

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children,
- Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice,
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- current legislation such as
 - the Children First Act 2015,
 - Child Care Act 1991,
 - Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998
 - the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

Our guiding principles apply to all volunteers and committee members within our organisation. All committee members, paid staff (if recruited), volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures. We will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

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Relevant Person is Mary Fuody	
Contact details 087 3698315	

Section 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	Policies/Procedures in place to manage identified risk
1	Those that work with children are unsafe to do so	Recruitment, Garda Vetting, TUSLA E-Learning and other relevant training, Induction, and Supervision policies
2	Those that work with children behave inappropriately towards them	Child Safeguarding Training Supervision policy Complaints procedure Disciplinary procedure Confidentiality procedures
	Children are not aware of behaviour expected of volunteer befrienders and/or themselves	Code of conduct on display in each room (This is being developed.)
3	Children who use our service do not understand volunteer roles and responsibilities in place in relation to Child Safeguarding to encourage positive behaviour	Policy on communicating CS statement and policy Outlined at the start of befriending session of children to both children and parents Training of volunteers to do this carefully and to check children's understanding
4	The environment in which work with children is facilitated fails to meet effective safeguarding practice	Supervision policy Confidentiality procedures Record keeping policy Policy regarding parental presence on the premises, while a child is being befriended.

5	Those who wish to behave dangerously or unethically towards children are able to do so	Recruitment, Garda Vetting, Selection, Induction, Training and supervision, complaints procedures
	Personnel fail to report an allegation, suspicion, concern or knowledge	<p>Clear procedures are in place for reporting child protection or welfare concerns.</p> <p>Record Keeping procedure</p> <p>Confidentiality procedures including 'need to know' procedures</p> <p>Training policy at induction and ongoing training provided to all volunteers.</p>
	Personnel fail to understand their responsibilities to safeguard children	<p>Guidance on responding to children who disclose abuse is included in your guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures</p> <p>Clear procedures are in place for responding to adult disclosures of childhood abuse</p> <p>Clear procedures are in place for responding to allegations of abuse made against staff.</p> <p>Communication of CS statement procedures</p> <p>CS statement copy provided to all personnel</p> <p>CS training included in induction and at least once annually</p> <p>Record keeping procedures</p> <p>Reporting procedures</p>
	Children and their parents do not understand CSBS , roles, responsibilities and procedures to safeguard children	<p>Communicate to children and parents – website, CCS statement displayed in each room.</p> <p>Include in Safeguarding training</p> <p>Clear policy on confidentiality is in place</p>

		<p>Outlined at the start of befriending session of children to both children and parents</p> <p>Training of volunteers</p>
	The procedures for safeguarding children fail to be implemented	Oversight policy (i.e. management committee oversee CS statement implementation and review, relevant person liaises with TUSLA regarding Child Safeguarding policies, procedures and practices in the organisation.
	CSBS fails to ensure the appointment of a relevant person	Policy on appointment of relevant person by management committee.
	Maintaining a list of mandated persons	Even when this is zero.

Section 4

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*. The procedures listed in our risk assessment, as required by the Children First Act, (2015), Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) attend to the following requirement around safeguarding policies/procedures/measures being in place:

- Accident/Incident procedure
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Appointment of key roles - relevant person, DLP and DDLP by management committee
- Child Safeguarding Training strategy
- Codes of conduct/behaviour
- Communicating Child Safeguarding Statement
- Complaints procedure
- Confidentiality
- Consultation and agreements with parents/guardians
- Dignity in the Workplace Charter
- Disciplinary procedures
- Induction including induction on your guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures
- Management of workers and volunteers
- Mandated Persons
- One-to-one working
- Procedures for reporting child protection or welfare concerns
- Record Keeping
- Recruitment and selection procedure for volunteers
- Recruitment and selection procedure for volunteers - Application of Garda Vetting

- Referrals Policy
- Responding to a child/young person who discloses abuse
- Responding to adults who disclose childhood abuse
- Responding to allegations of abuse made against volunteers
- Risk assessment procedures
- Safe management of activities
- Supervision
- All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training.

All policies and procedures listed are available upon request.

Section 5

Implementation and Review

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 7-October 2020 (within 24 months of previous Statement) or as soon as practicable, after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

This statement has been published on the CSBS website and is displayed in the Centre premises. It has been provided to all volunteers and any other persons involved with the group. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested

Signed: _____ (Provider)

[Provider's name and contact details]

For queries, please contact MARY FOU DY

(Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.)

This Child Safeguarding Statement was drafted by
Bríd Kennedy, C Psychol PsSI, a volunteer with CSBS.

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