**Cumann Na Daoine Child Safeguarding Statement 2018**

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**Cumann Na Daoine** provides community development and resource support to a broad range of diverse adult community groups in Youghal.

Cumann Na Daoine has 16 staff and volunteers and facilitates many community groups and activities including: Women’s Group, Men’s Group, Bingo, Bowls, Dancing classes, adult education classes etc.

Cumann Na Daoine has a management committee in place to ensure that the organisation is run well.

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Cumann Na Daoine does not provide direct services to children and young people. However, Cumann Na Daoine does work closely with, and provides support to some local community groups who may provide direct services to children and young people. Cumann na Daoine is therefore committed to safeguarding children in line with requirements under the Children’s First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and is committed to the guidance set out in Children First 2015.

Children First: National Guidance outlines that all organisations working with children and young people should create a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of children and young people availing of their services. Most of these organisations will provide ‘relevant services’ as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and will have specific statutory obligations under the Act. The Guidance also outlines best practice procedures in child safeguarding that all organisations dealing with children and young people should consider. This is in addition to any statutory obligations under the Act.

All volunteers and staff working with adults, children and young people in Cumann Na Daoine seek to create a safe environment for adults, children and young people to grow and develop while participating in Cumann Na Daoine activities. Every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of and/or attending our service is safe and protected from harm (physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect)

**Statutory obligations of relevant services:**

The Children First Act 2015 places specific obligations on organisations which provide services to children and young people, including the requirement to:

* Keep children **safe from harm** while they are using the service
* Carry out a **risk assessment** to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while availing of the service
* Develop a **Child Safeguarding Statement** that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified
* Appoint a **relevant person** to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation’s Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Children Act 2015 defines harm of a child as ill treatment, neglect, assault, or sexual abuse, and explains what to do if you are concerned.

Cumann Na Daoine’s written Safeguarding Risk Assessment indicates the areas ofpotential risk of harm to children and young people, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required procedure to alleviate these risks. This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under theChildren First Act 2015, (The Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).

Cumann Na Daoine recognises that implementation is an ongoing process, and is committed to the

Implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention

to keep children safe from harm if/when participating in Cumann Na Daoine activities.

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This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed 2 years from the date below.

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Role: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cumann Na Daoine

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**Cumann Na Daoine Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment March 2018**

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| **Risk Identified** | **Procedure in Place to Manage Risk Identified** | **To be Developed and/or Implemented** | **Person Responsible** |
| Children and young people not having a positive experience and not kept safe from harm if/when in the building, when interacting with Cumann na Daoine personnel, and when attending Cumann na Daoine activities. | Low risk due to children’s infrequent use of and attendance at Cumann na Daoine activities, as Cumann na Daoine activities are targeted at adults.  All staff and volunteers advised of expectation to create a safe environment for adults, children and young people to grow and develop while participating in Cumann na Daoine activities.  Staff subgroup in place to respond to any inappropriate behaviour by staff or volunteers, who in turn report the management committee.  Management committee in place to oversee response to inappropriate behaviour. | Staff, volunteers and board of management to receive child protection/Children First Training. | ? |
| Cumann na Daoine personnel not being aware of their obligations under Children First to keep children safe from harm, and what to do if there are concerns. | Low risk due to children’s infrequent use of and attendance at Cumann na Daoine activities, as Cumann na Daoine activities are targeted at adults.  Staff subgroup in place to identify any training needs among staff and volunteers, who in turn report the management committee. | Staff, volunteers and board of management to receive child protection/Children First Training. | ? |
| Groups using the building, who provide direct services to children and/or young people, not being aware of their obligations under Children First to ensure children are kept safe from harm. | Low risk – 1 group provides direct services to children?  Management Committee requires community groups providing services to children and young people to have a Child Safeguarding Statement, confirmation of Children First Training, and clear understanding of their obligations under Children Frist 2015.  Issue arising with community groups or other agencies using the building are brought to the attention of the management Committee to be resolved. | Staff, volunteers, BOM | ? |
| Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff | * Pre-employment checks * Code of behaviour for staff * Professional registration for healthcare professionals * Tusla child protection & welfare policy. * Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery * National consent policy |  |  |
| Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public | * Supervision/accompaniment/admission/public access policies as relevant to service provision * Staff supervision and training. * Reporting procedure |  |  |
| Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act and National Guidance | * Children First Governance Structure * Children’s First compliance checklist for Section 38 and 39 funded and contracted services. * Compliance monitoring and audit of Tusla and funded and contracted service. * Staff information, supervision and training. * Reporting procedure. * Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting. * Further training and support e.g. briefings for mandated persons available as necessary from the Tusla Children First National Office. * Consultation with service users. (Talking to and listening to the child; information leaflets for children, information regarding safe practice on admission. |  |  |
| Risk of harm or concern not being reported | * Children First Governance Structure * Children’s First compliance checklist for Section 38 and 39 funded and contracted services. * Compliance monitoring and audit of Tusla and funded and contracted service. * Staff information, supervision and training. * Reporting procedure. * Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting. * Further training and support e.g. briefings for mandated persons available as necessary from the Tusla Children First National Office. * Consultation with service users. (Talking to and listening to the child; information leaflets for children, information regarding safe practice on admission. |  |  |

Cumann na Daoine policies and procedures have been developed to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise ; and to manage it safely where it does

Clear protocols and Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers: clear employment policies and procedures are in place and all staff are Garda vetted.

We also have a statement and policy in place for protecting vulnerable adults and an equality statement.