



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre



July 2020

Checklist

Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement	Complete
Carry out the Risk Assessment	✓
List details of the service provided and management structure	✓
List principles to protect children from harm	✓
Appoint a Relevant Person	✓
Draw up a list of Mandated Persons	✓
Check you have all the required policies and procedures	✓
Amend your child protection and welfare reporting procedures, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>information on Mandated Persons and how they report</i> • <i>information from Children First, National Guidance, 2017</i> 	✓
Develop new procedures to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appoint a relevant person</i> • <i>Draw up list of Mandated Persons</i> 	✓
Provide all staff and board members with information about their responsibilities under the Children First Act, 2015	✓
Include details on review and implementation	✓

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- This document is a guide and, to ensure your compliance with the Children First Act, 2015, it should be adapted to the needs, size and particulars of your service.
- Under the Children First Act, 2015 all early years services (including stand-alone afterschool services) as defined in the Childcare Act 1991 who employ one or more person are required to have a child safeguarding statement. Employ here includes people who are unpaid – for example, students or volunteers and back up persons.

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

The aim of the MYFRC is to provide a service aimed at strengthening and empowering children, Young People, families and the community of Mountmellick.

Our services include:

- Early Bird Club - 4 Groups
- Homework Club – 4 Groups
- Friday Clubs – 2 Groups
- SHAPES (Supporting Home and Primary Education Strategies) – Three Groups
- Teen Youth Groups – 2 Groups
- Out of school term activities (e.g. summer/easter activities)
- Child Counselling
- One to one work
- Meitheal
- Family Support
- Toddlers and Tea

Location of Service:

- The MDA Building, Irishtown Mountmellick, Co. Laois
- The Mountmellick Sports Complex, Patrick Street, Mountmellick, Co. Laois
- St. Patrick's BNS and St. Josephs GNS, Davitt Road, Mountmellick, Co Laois

The management structure is:

- Board of Management
- MYFRC Manager
- Youth Worker
- Family Support Worker
- Support Staff
- Volunteers
- Students

The MYFRC Voluntary Board of Management have appointed the Manager, Mike Farrell as the person who will oversee this statement and ensure that risk assessments are carried out on a quarterly basis.

2. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

- Our Service is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop.

- Our service believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
- Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
- Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.
- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- **Designated Liaison Person** for Child Protection

<p>DLP:</p> <p>Mike Farrell Manager MYFRC, MDA Complex, Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois</p> <p>Mail: manager@myfrc.ie PH: 057 86 24601 MOB: 087 644 4963</p>	<p>Deputy:</p> <p>Niamhie Mooney & Sandra Aherne</p> <p>Youth Worker Family Support 086 048 8148 086 817 7596</p> <p>Mail: youthworker@myfrc.ie developmentworker@myfrc.ie</p>
--	---

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board of Management/Service Provider has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. These assessments are carried out on a quarterly basis by staff members. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a member of staff, volunteer or peer</p> <p>Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group rules. • Code of behaviour. • Toilet arrangement procedures. • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Anti-bullying policy. • Medication procedures. • Substance misuse guidelines • Risk assessment procedures in all locations of operation. Relationship and sexuality education (RSE) policy. • Child protection policy. • Incident report sheet. • Healthy eating & physical activity policy. • Record of parent/guardian contact.
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access</p> <p>Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff supervision policy. • Relationship and sexuality education (RSE) policy. • Child protection policy. • Incident report sheet. • Healthy eating & physical activity policy. • Record of parent/guardian contact. • Procedures on protected disclosures. • MYFRC Staff capability & competence. • Disciplinary procedure. • Acceptable internet/Social Media use guidelines. • Bullying prevention policy. • eLearning child protection. • Reporting procedures on incidents. • Risk assessment in all locations of operation.
<p>Volunteers supporting staff in groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer policy. • eLearning child protection.
<p>Students on placement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of practice for students on placement. • Student supervision policy. • eLearning child protection.
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor/contractor in the service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet usage procedure. • School cameras.
<p>People using the sports complex (staff or volunteers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet usage procedure. • School cameras.
<p>People using the premises (eg. staff or volunteers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet usage procedure. • MDA & Sports Complex cameras.
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff, volunteer or peer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment carried out by staff with young people. • Trip involving overnight stays policy.
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff, volunteer or peer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment carried out by staff with young people. • Trip away policy.
<p>Children arriving to group outside of group allocated time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early arrival to group procedure. • Late pick up procedures.
<p>Risk of harm to a child through an online service during Covid-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for using Video Group Chats in MYFRC. • MYFRC Covid-19 Response Plan • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Bullying prevention policy.

4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As required by the Children First Act, 2015, Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and the Guidance for Developing for a Child Safeguarding statement for Early Years Services 2018 the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place

- A Relevant Person (Mike Farrell) has been appointed
- Procedure is in place for maintaining a list of the persons in Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre under the Children First 2017
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
- Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by the provider or a member of staff of the provider (whether mandated or otherwise);
- Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees/ Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while availing of our service;
- Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records
- Staff Handbook
- Recruitment Policy and Procedure in place for selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regard to that person's suitability to work with children;
- Garda Vetting Policy
- Code of Behaviour for Working with Children
- Procedure for the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training to members of staff of the provider in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm; All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training
- Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.
- Complaints Policy
- Policy for Managing Outings
- Policy for Managing Accidents and Incidents
- Accident and Incident Policy
- Code of Practice and Behaviour
- Behaviour Management and Code of practice
- Staff Ratio and Attendance Health and Safety Policy
- Dropping Off and Collection Policy
- Visitors to FRC
- Voice of the Child as paramount
- Health And Nutrition Policy
- Food Health and Safety,
- Hygiene MYFRC
- Infection Control
- Food Preparation and Storage
- Mealtime Practices

- Medication Management
- Digital and social Media MYFRC policy
- First Aid and Health and Safety

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.
- This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years 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 service website and is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Service Provider's name and contact details:

Mountmellick Youth & Family Resource Centre,
MDA Complex, Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois

For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person:

Mike Farrell, Manager MYFRC,
Mail: manager@myfrc.ie
PH: 057 86 24601
MOB: 087 644 49623

Person carrying out Risk Assessment: Mike Farrell

Date: 13th July 2020

Risk Identified	Who is Responsible?	What is Currently in Place to Manage the Risk	What Future Actions are Needed?
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a member of staff, volunteer or peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseen by Mike Farrell • All staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff supervision policy. • Child protection policy. • Recruitment process including Garda Vetting. • Incident reporting. • Healthy eating & physical activity policy. • Record of parent/guardian contact. • Procedures on protected disclosures. • MYFRC Staff capability & competence. • Disciplinary procedure. • Complaints Procedure. • Behaviour Management Guidelines. • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Bullying prevention policy. • eLearning child protection. • Reporting procedures on incidents. • Risk assessment in all locations of operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly risk assessments. • Induction training and updates on policies and procedures.
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor/contractor in the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseen by Mike Farrell • All staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet usage procedure. • MDA & Sports Complex cameras. • Dropping off and Collection Policy. • Sign in and out procedure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly risk assessments. • Induction training and updates on policies and procedures.

<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff, volunteer or peer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseen by Mike Farrell • All staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for managing outings. • Staff supervision policy. • Child protection policy. • Recruitment process including Garda Vetting. • Incident reporting. • Healthy eating & physical activity policy. • Record of parent/guardian contact. • Procedures on protected disclosures. • MYFRC Staff capability & competence. • Disciplinary procedure. • Complaints Procedure. • Behaviour Management Guidelines. • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Bullying prevention policy. • eLearning child protection. • Reporting procedures on incidents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly risk assessments. • Induction training and updates on policies and procedures.
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseen by Mike Farrell • All staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital and social Media MYFRC policy. • Incident reporting. • Behaviour Management Guidelines. • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Bullying prevention policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly risk assessments. • Induction training and updates on policies and procedures.
<p>Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseen by Mike Farrell • All staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital and social Media MYFRC policy. • Incident reporting. • Behaviour Management Guidelines. • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Bullying prevention policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly risk assessments. • Induction training and updates on policies and procedures.
<p>Risk of harm to a child through an online service during Covid-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseen by Mike Farrell • All staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for using Video Group Chats in MYFRC. • MYFRC Covid-19 Response Plan • Acceptable internet use guidelines. • Bullying prevention policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly risk assessments. • Induction training and updates on policies and procedures.