



Solas Project

Child Safeguarding Statement

Solas Project provides support and opportunities for young people aged 5 – 24 years through participation in a variety of programmes including - Afterschool clubs, Mentoring programmes, In-school programmes, practical workshops, drop in clubs, detached youth work, individual work, and an in-reach prison programme. We are committed to a young person-centred approach which upholds the rights of every young person who attends our service, including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, heard and challenged.

Solas Project is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding policies which reflect national policy and legislation and are under pinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, DCYA 2017*; *Tusla’s Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure 2018*; and *the Children First Act 2015*). Our staff and volunteers together with our young people, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop.

Our operating locations include Unit 1, Liberty View; 80 and 82 The Coombe, St. Catherine’s Church, Thomas Street; 26/27 Basin Street; Wheatfield Prison; Mountjoy Prison. In addition to these designated venues Solas Projects also runs programmes in local schools and does outreach in the community.

Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, board members and students. All must agree to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration as well as our child protection policy and accompanying procedures

We have carried out a written Risk Assessment of any potential harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety. This assessment indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or processes required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified are contained in the following categories: Transport/Travel; Communications; Recruitment; Programmes and interventions; and Other Risks. The Risk Assessment was updated in March 2020.

RISK	Policy / procedure in place
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer;	Volunteer policy Garda Vetting policy Code of conduct Child Protection Policy Anti-bullying policy Communications policy
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service;	High ratio of supervision
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer;	Anti-bullying policy Child Protection policy Volunteer Policy Transport and travel policy

Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer;	Anti-bullying policy Child Protection policy Restorative practice procedure
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography;	Photography and videography policy Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers Parental consent forms Parental consent forms
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access;	Anti-bullying policy

Please refer to the full Risk Assessment document for further information. We have a procedure and/or a policy in place for all above potential risks identified.

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 our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Solas Project has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities

Our designated person (and relevant person) is Amy Carey. In addition, all front line staff are recognised as mandated persons.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Solas Project 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 activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in March 2022.

Signed: *A. Carey* Date: *28/04/21*

(On behalf of the Solas Project)

Name: *AMY CAREY* Phone no: *0834500950*

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement or our Risk Assessment document please contact Amy Carey.