



**The Loft**  
(Local Outreach Family Therapies)

## Safety Statement

### Guiding Principles Supporting The Loft's Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

"The Loft is a community-based project responding to young people and families in Cabra affected by alcohol and substance mis-use".

In accordance with the requirement of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, The Management of The Loft has agreed the Guiding Principles Supporting The Loft's Child Safeguarding Statement and The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment as set out in this document.

1. **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Marian Scullion, Family Intervention Counsellor**
2. **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Liz O' Driscoll, Team Leader**
3. The Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations must be reflected in the organisation's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the Loft will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare;

The Loft will;

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of young people is of paramount importance regardless of other considerations;
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- Fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accident happening to young people and protect staff from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The Loft will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any young person with a special vulnerability.

4. The following procedures/measures are in place;
  - In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in

respect of a young person attending this service, the Loft adheres to the relevant procedures set out in The Service User Complaints Procedure and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for staff which are published in the Staff Handbook. A copy is available on request.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with young people, the Loft adheres to the Recruitment Policy and a copy is available on request as well as the recruitment guidelines as per the HSE
  - In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, training to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) The Loft
    - Has provided each member of staff, including new staff members, with a copy of the Loft's Child Safeguarding Statement
    - Provides staff with access to child safeguarding training and information and as a requirement, staff are required to avail of such training
    - Maintains a record of all staff training
  - In relation to reporting of child and welfare protection concerns to Tusla, all staff at the Loft are required to adhere to the HSE Mandatory Reporting Procedures under the Children First Act 2015
  - In the Loft the above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of child safeguarding statement
  - All staff employed by the Loft are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
  - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the management has carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a young person while attending the Loft or participating in its activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the Loft's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.
  - The various procedures referred to in this Statement is available on request.
5. This statement has been provided to all staff members of The Loft and Board of Management. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.
6. The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Team Leader, The Loft**  
Date:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Board of Management Representative**  
Date:

# Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of The Loft (Local Outreach Family Therapies)

## 1. List of The Loft activities

We offer;

- 1:1 Counselling Support
- Recovery Support (Aftercare)
- Family Intervention (Facilitated Peer Support Group)
- Youth Intervention

Within the Family Youth Intervention Service we can work with young people from 16+ and offer;

- 1:1 Counselling Support
- Outreach Service
- Programme Activity

Our written policies and procedures support our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and protection of children. We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child.

## 2. The Loft has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

Harm to a young person from a staff member

Harm to a young person from a staff member in one to one support

Harm not being recognised or reported promptly by a staff member

Harm to a young person from another young person during programme/outreach activities

Harm to a young person if their parents are unaware of their engagement in our services

- 1:1 Counselling Support (moderate)
- Outreach Service (moderate)
- Programme Activity (low)

### 3. The Loft has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

Compliance with HSE Mandatory Reporting Procedures and Child and Welfare Concerns to Tusla

Lone Workers Policy

Registration Procedures (Confidentiality and Consent to Share Information)

Designated Liaison Person

Mandated Person

Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons who are a mandated person

Procedure for appointing a relevant person

Complaints Procedure

Staff Handbook

Procedure for allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers

- **1:1 Counselling Support (moderate)**

Procedure for safe recruitment and selection for all staff to work with children

Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm

Relevant training and induction procedures for all staff

Glass panel on all doors for one to one supports

Meeting with the Family and Consent Form

Working with Young People Policy

Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults Policy

Suicide Self Harm Policy

- **Outreach Service (moderate)**

Appropriate adult to child supervision on outreach activities

Policy for outreach activities

- **Programme Activity (low)**

Appropriate adult to child supervision on programme activities

Policy for programme activities

**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Team Leader and Board of Management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this service and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is

not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the Loft has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Management Team on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the Loft's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Team Leader, The Loft**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Board of Management Representative**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_