

## Child Safeguarding Statement - Cairde Sligo Arts Festival

### 1. Name of service being provided:

Cairde Sligo Arts Festival

Our office premises are at 40 Wolftone Street, Sligo F91 R231.

Our festival takes place in multiple locations around the Sligo town and in some county locations. The number of crew vary to each location depending on staff ratio to participant/audience legally required.

### 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm *(brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):*

#### Our service:

Cairde Sligo Arts Festival (CSAF) is Sligo's major annual multi-disciplinary arts festival. We play a pioneering leadership role in developing the arts in Sligo, in the Northwest, and nationally.

#### What we do:

- encourages and supports a vibrant and thriving arts ecology
- engages meaningfully with artists, audiences, and communities
- is forward thinking, innovative and willing to take artistic risks
- prioritises inclusivity in everything we do
- celebrates our unique place
- connects nationally and internationally and strengthens Ireland's festivals infrastructure.
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Sligo is our place, and our festival is celebrated in buildings, on the streets, in public spaces, and in other outdoor locations in and around Sligo.

The services we provide to children and young people are arts activity related; as

- One off group workshops: drop-in and pre-booked both outdoors and indoors
- Regular group workshops with our Young Curator programme
- Performances aimed at children and families
- Exhibitions aimed at general public
- Outdoors events aimed at children and families

Level of contact with children and families is as follows:

- One off group workshops: children and young people work with artists, leading on arts activity in activity room or in a public space.
- Regular group workshops; children and young people work with artists, leading on arts activity in activity room for a number of sessions.

- Performances; minimal contact, booked by parents with audience ushered by Front of House staff in to performances
- Exhibitions; minimal contact, as part of school tours or in attendance with families
- Outdoors events; some contact, dealing with Lost Children and Workshops (see above)

Some arts organisations/artists also deliver activities for children and young people as part of our festival programme.

Our service users:

- They can vary in age from early years (0 years upwards) to 18 years old.
- The level of ability varies.
- We provide no individual care needs as this is not within the festival's capabilities. Any individual care needs have to be provided by a parent/guardian or recognised carer.
- The dynamics of our client group vary from activity to activity but where an artist is involved, they would work with a group of children and young people to either develop their own art work on an individual basis or as a group together.
- The groups of children and young people vary in terms of backgrounds, this may include young people who need extra family support services or have intellectual disabilities. Where children and young people have additional support needs we always work with their carers in an activity room.

We currently have the following practices to safeguard children from harm:

- All artists have to have valid Garda Clearance to carry out workshop activities with children, young people and vulnerable people.
- Lost children facility for outdoors public events (5000 people plus)
- All paid staff coming into contact with children and young people through festival events have to have valid Garda Clearance

What we need to develop in order to safeguard children from harm:

- Any artists/companies providing services to children and young people need to show evidence of carrying out valid Garda Clearances
- Any artists/companies need to show proof of their own up to date Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Statement
- Notify all volunteers signing up that they may be required to be Garda Vetted through the festival for specific events.
- Possible Garda Vetting for volunteers working on specific events.
- We will introduce a lost children facility for outdoors public events on a case by case basis.

**Our commitment to safeguard children:**

**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.

<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
<p>Artists/staff inappropriate behaviour or contact with children and young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festival follows procedure for staff/artist safe recruitment practice as in our Child Protection Policy.</li> <li>• All staff/artists to be working with children and young people complete Declaration Form.</li> <li>• Garda clearance for relevant staff/artist.</li> <li>• All relevant artists/staff read and sign Child Protection policy and Child Safeguarding Statement.</li> <li>• All relevant artists/staff carry out E-training and induction in relation to Child Protection.</li> <li>• Where staff/artist work one to one it should be in a group setting or with another artist rather than alone.</li> <li>• Provision of arts activities only (no personal care provided).</li> <li>• Festival ensures partner organisations and artists have up to date Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement and confirm they have read.</li> <li>• An given the name of artists and staff in advance of the festival.</li> </ul>

<p>Volunteers inappropriate behaviour or contact with children and young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festival follows procedure for staff/artist safe recruitment practice as outlined in our Child Protection Policy.</li> <li>• All volunteers complete Declaration Form.</li> <li>• Volunteers know at recruitment stage they may be required to be Garda Vetted.</li> <li>• Volunteers to be Garda Vetted where working on workshops or public outdoors events specifically targeted at children and families.</li> <li>• An Gardaf given the name of volunteers in advance of the festival.</li> <li>• Volunteers in a purely assistance role to arts activities.</li> </ul>
<p>3 Children get lost from parent or guardian at festival outdoors event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewards are briefed for procedure in dealing with Lost Children.</li> <li>• Lost Children facility provided for public outdoors events over 5000 people. Other outdoors events are</li> <li>• assessed on a case by case basis.</li> </ul>
<p>4 Participatory projects working with vulnerable children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to addressing risks 1 and 2:</li> <li>• Always work through specialist agency or service who will provide care staff in sessions.</li> </ul>

#### 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*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## 5. Implementation

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 May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

Tara McGowan - Director - Cairde Sligo Arts Festival

For queries, please contact Stephanie Pawula, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Updated May 25<sup>th</sup> 2022