COIS NORE CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Name of service being provided: Cois Nore Cancer Support Centre

Definition of a Child: A 'Child' means a person under the age of 18 years who is not or has not been married *(Children First National Guidance on the protection & Welfare of Children, 2017)*

Definition of a Vulnerable Adult: an adult who may be restricted in capacity to guard himself/herself against harm or exploitation or to report such harm or exploitation *(Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults at Risk of Abuse (2014) National Policies and Procedures).*

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from harm.

Cois Nore provides individual counselling, physical therapies and group support to adults and children. We in Cois Nore Cancer Support Centre want to make sure that children and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm. We do this by recognising that the welfare of the child and vulnerable adults is paramount, and by complying with our legal responsibilities under the *Child Care Act 1991* and *2011*, the *Children Act 2001, Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, HSE safeguarding VulnerablePersons at Risk of Abuse (2014) National Policy & Procedures*

- By making parents aware that the Centre is guided in their work and contact with children by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children(2017).*
- By making parents aware during their formal introduction to the service that a copy of Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) is available on the premises for them to view if desired.
- By following the range of policies and procedures of the Centre (see 4 below).
- Making sure that our workers are carefully selected, have Garda vetting (which will be updated every 5 years), referenced, trained in protecting children and supervised.
- Letting service users know how to voice their concerns or complain if there is anything they are not happy about.
- By reviewing and revising our protection of children and vulnerable adults policy on an annual basis.
- Every organisation should designate a person or persons to be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children and vulnerable adults. To this end, we have two designated liaison persons who will liaise with parents and other agencies re: child and vulnerable adult protection issues.
    - Mary Dolan, Manager – Tel:056 775 2222/ E mail: manager@coisnore.ie
    - Board Member – Mags Bowen – Tel 056 7752222/ Email: magsbowen@coisnore.ie

1. Risk Assessment.

We have carried out a risk assessment of any potential harm to a child or vulnerable adult while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	One to one counselling	• Recruitment procedure and garda vetting • Children First training • Public display and dissemination of Child Safeguarding Statement • Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults policy

2.	Group support	• Recruitment procedure and garda vetting • Children First training • Public display and dissemination of Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement • Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adult policy
3.	Contact with staff and volunteers	• Recruitment procedure and garda vetting • Children First training • Public display and dissemination Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement • Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult policy

2. Procedures.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Child Care Act 1991 and 2011, the Children Act 2001,Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice and *HSE safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse (2014) National Policy & Procedures*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and vulnerable adults while they are availing of our service, and are detailed in our Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child or vulnerable adult availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children and vulnerable adults
- Procedure for the 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 on request.

3. Implementation

We recognize that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child and vulnerable adults Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and vulnerable adults safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 3 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

SIGNED: Mary Dolan

(Cois Nore)
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