



## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Mission Statement:

To support the sustainable use of of the Wicklow Uplands through consensus and partnership with those who live, work and recreate there.

### Name of Service being provided:

The Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) aims to support the sustainable use of the Wicklow Uplands. We work with local community groups and in that regard, we occasionally organise public events that children may attend.

### Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

On occasion the Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) organises public events to promote the activities of the WUC and to engage with the wider public. These events may include families or young people. We are fully committed to the safeguarding of children at these events. Children must be accompanied by a parent or designated adult and must be supervised at all times. We do not interact with children individually or on a regular basis. WUC are benefactors of the Heritage Council and are fully aware of, and in compliance with, their Child Protection Policy. One of our staff members has completed the Tusla Child Protection Training course and is our Designated Liaison Person.

### 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>
<b>1</b>	Unsanctioned photographing of children and or recirculation of photographs featuring children without parental consent.	The WUC Child Protection Policy has clear guidelines for taking and circulating photographs of children. Parental consent is required for taking and circulating any photographs featuring children. The staff, Directors and anyone working on behalf of the WUC are required to sign a Declaration form stating that they have read and will abide by our Child Protection policies and procedures.
<b>2</b>	Inappropriate behaviour or incident by a staff member.	Staff members and Directors dealing with children must be Garda vetted and declare in writing that they will adhere to the WUC's code of practice at an organised event. If Staff members and Directors will

		be in direct contact with children at an event, they will be provided with Child Safeguarding Training.
3	Inadequate supervision of children in the Parish Hall.	The Roundwood Parish Hall have their own Child Protection Policy. The WUC offices are upstairs over the Parish Hall where children attend classes with no connection to the WUC office. Staff on occasion may be working alone. Children are not allowed in the office without a parent/primary carer/teacher.
4	Inadequate supervision of children at WUC organised events.	When booking to attend a WUC event, parents must confirm that their child will be fully supervised at all times by them the parent, or primary carer/teacher. They must agree that a WUC Staff member or Director will not be left alone at any time with their child or children.

### 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 /Directors/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers, Directors 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.

## 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 a two yearly basis or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Provider)

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**For queries, please contact: Designated Liaison Person.**

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## GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN

There is some evidence that photographs of children may be used inappropriately. Therefore, the following guidelines will be observed by anyone working on behalf of the Wicklow Uplands Council.

- ❖ Permission will be sought from primary carer/ teacher/ parent and the children if it is desired to take photographs. If the Wicklow Uplands Council wishes to use the photograph of any child for any promotional or publicity, they must first contact the parents and obtain written permission.
- ❖ Anyone working on behalf of the Wicklow Uplands Council shall not take photographs of children for any reason other than specified official reasons.
- ❖ No Child appearing in any promotional photograph will be named.
- ❖ Only images of children appearing in suitable dress can be considered for use.

- ❖ Inappropriate use of images of children must be reported to the (DLP) Designated Liaison Person and it will be considered as a breach of the (WUC) Wicklow Uplands Council's Code of Practice and could give rise to both disciplinary and criminal proceedings.

## ACCIDENTS AND PROCEDURES

If an accident happens to a child while in the care of the Wicklow Uplands Council it is important not only to treat the situation competently, but also to report and record it correctly. The following steps should be observed:

- ❖ If at all possible, two adults should remain with the injured child. However, other children may need to be removed from the scene and it may not always be possible to have two adults present.
- ❖ First Aid as appropriate should be administered if a competent person is available and should, as best practice, be carried out in the presence of another adult.
- ❖ If necessary, an ambulance should be requested or another emergency service such as cliff and mountain rescue (dial 999 or 1120). Insofar as possible, the person dialling for help will need to convey as much concise information as possible to the emergency services such as the nature of the injury and medical history if known.
- ❖ They should stay beside the phone to await a return call confirming the request.
- ❖ Once the casualty is stabilised and/or removed by ambulance, the parents/carers must be contacted.
- ❖ Immediately after the incident, a detailed report must be filed with the Wicklow Uplands Council.

### General Guidelines:

- ❖ The child's welfare and safety will always be put first.
- ❖ WUC staff and Directors will ensure, to the best of their ability; that every child remains safe and experiences our organised events positively.
- ❖ All young people will be treated with dignity and respect.
- ❖ WUC staff and Directors will have access to a complete First Aid kit nearby them at all times at organised events where children are attending.
- ❖ WUC will keep a written record of any incident that occurs to a child along with an outline of any action taken by them. This will be copied to the Wicklow Uplands Council's Designated Liaison Person.