

Woodford Parish Development Child Safeguarding Statement

Woodford, Co. Galway

Company Reg No. / VAT: 3440200RH 3396788

In accordance with the requirements 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, Woodford Parish Development has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1 Woodford Parish Development has adopted this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Carmel Moore

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ailish O Reilly**

4 Woodford Parish Development recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of our policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, volunteers will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The committee and volunteers will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all 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 co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents/guardians and encourage parental involvement
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

Woodford Parish Development will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult with a special vulnerability.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to volunteers in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act). See training [here](#)

Woodford Parish Development

- Has provided each member of the committee and volunteer with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ensures all new volunteers are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- Maintains records of all committee members and volunteers training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all involved in Woodford Parish Development activities are required to adhere to the procedures in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this, Woodford Parish Development has appointed 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 the child safeguarding statement.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Woodford Parish Development has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in our activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.

6 This statement has been published on the Woodford Parish Development website and has been provided to all volunteers. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

7 We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Woodford Parish Development 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 _____, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by Woodford Parish Development on

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson Woodford Parish Development Secretary of Woodford Parish Development

Date: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 1

List of Woodford Parish Development Activities involving Children:

Participation in voluntary activities e.g. litter picking.

Participation in activities in and around the village

Participation in the competitions

Participation in workshops and camps

The use of photography, video and other methods of recording Woodford Parish Development activities.

Appendix 2

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. The committee had identified the following risks in relation to its activities:

Risk of harm not being recognised by members of the committee or volunteers

Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly to the committee or designated liaison person

Risk of a child being harmed by a member of the committee or a volunteer

Risk of a child being harmed by another child

Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children

In undertaking this risk assessment Woodford Parish Development has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to the activities of this organisation and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to address the risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee all remove all risk of harm, Woodford Parish Development has the procedures listed in this risk assessment to reduce risk to the greatest possible extent. This risk assessment was completed by Woodford Parish Development Committee on November 5th 2020. It shall be reviewed as part of our annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement.

Appendix 3

Woodford Parish Development has put the following procedures in place to address the risk of harm identified in this assessment:

All Committee members and volunteers engaged in activities where children are involved will be furnished with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Woodford Parish Development activities involving children will only proceed if there is adequate parental or teacher supervision during the activity or where there are no less than two supervising adults at activities.

Woodford Parish Development activities involving children will by time limited, times will be advised to teachers or parents as required.

Appendix 4 – Procedures

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; see training [here](#)
- 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.

Signed: _____
Chairperson Woodford Parish Development

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Secretary Woodford Parish Development

Date: _____