

**BALLINASLOE SOCIAL SERVICES
THERAPEUTIC LEARNING CENTRE & PRE-SCHOOL**



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

14/07/2022

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

Ballinasloe Social Services Pre-School is registered pre-school providing the following services for children aged 3 years to 6- years:

ECCE and NCS sessional services 5 morning and afternoons each week

We take children on trips and outings, the nature of these outings being determined by the appropriate regulations under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services)

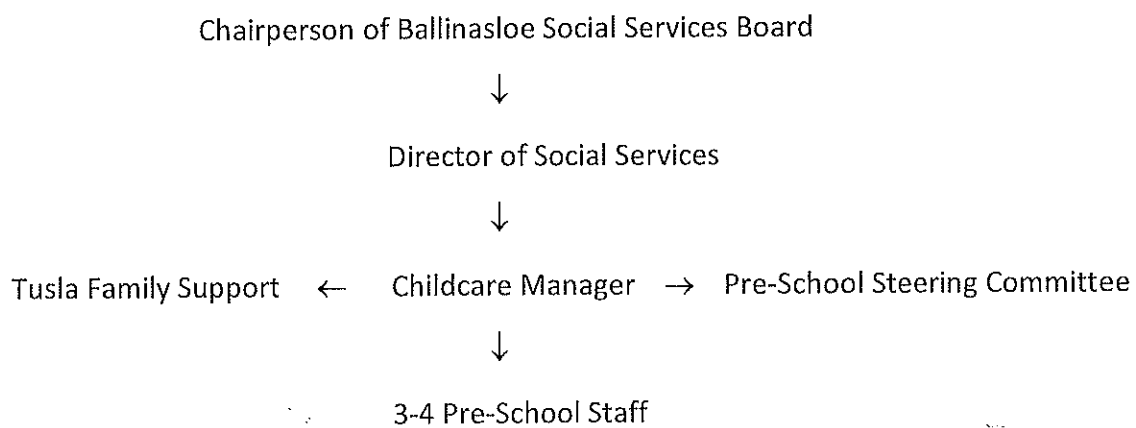
We have a designated, secure outdoor area where we provide learning activities for children.

We provide additional support under the AIM model to smaller groups to allow all children to meaningfully participate in our ELC service.

Ballinasloe Therapeutic Learning Centre is an early intervention service providing the following services to children aged 0 years to 8 years, who may not be reaching their full potential, supporting and coaching their parents, working closely with children's agencies

Individual sessions are provided with child and family, as referred by Tusla, Primary Care and Early Intervention.

The management structure is:



2. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

- Our Service is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop in all areas

- Our service believes that the welfare of the children attending our service is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attend our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
- Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, DCYA, 2017*, *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure, Tusla, 2018*, and the *Children First Act 2015*.
- Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, staff, volunteers and students must abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.
- All staff and volunteers must avail of relevant training with regard to Child Protection
- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Protection**

<p>DLP:</p> <p><i>Elaine Murphy</i></p> <p><i>087 9038440</i></p>	<p>Deputy:</p> <p><i>Teresa Coughlan</i></p> <p><i>087 7639881</i></p>
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3. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*, the Board of Management/Service Provider has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
Risk of injury	Incident recorded, parents informed, staff training and Awareness

Harm from peers	Supervision of children at all times. Behaviour Management Programme in place addressing peer abuse, bullying, Immature behaviour etc. Child Safeguarding Training in place
Harm from adults	Safe recruitment policy, garda clearance required, Staff Supervision procedure, Lone Working Policy Codes of behaviour for all adults, Child Safeguarding Training In place
Individual sessions with children	Parents are always required to be present for individual sessions
Safety of children on outings	Outings policy in place, risk assessment of venue carried out prior to visit, Child Safeguarding Training in place

4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As required by the *Children First Act 2015* and *Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017* the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place

- Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015
- A Relevant Person has been appointed
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
- Confidentiality Policy
- Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees
- Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records
- Recruitment Policy
- Garda Vetting Policy
- Code of Behaviour for Working with Children
- Induction Policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures and Risk Assessment)

- All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training and Tulsa’s ‘Children First Mandated Person’, and training is updated regularly as advised by the government.
- Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.
- Complaints Policy
- Policy for Managing Outings
- Policy for Managing Accidents and Incidents
- IT Communication & Monitoring Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Lone Workers Policy

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.
- This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- This statement has been published on the service website and is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers, students and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed: R. Power
Chairperson

Date: 7/9/2022

For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person:

Elaine Murphy 087 9038440

LIST OF MANDATED PERSONS IN BALLINASLOE SOCIAL SERVICES CHILDCARE SERVICE:

Chairperson: Regina Power

Childcare Staff: Every Childcare Worker – list available on request

Manager: Teresa Coughlan

All visiting professionals, as listed in Schedule 2 of the Children First Act 2015, to Ballinasloe Social Services Childcare facility

RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Person(s) carrying out Risk Assessment: Elaine Murphy & Teresa Coughlan

Date: 30th August 2022

Risk Identified	Who is Responsible?	What is Currently in Place to Manage the Risk	What Future Actions are Needed?
Injury	Childcare Manager	Adult Supervision at all times Staff awareness and vigilance First Aid Accidents & Incidents Policy, Complaints Policy	Post injury incident review every 2 years or as needed
Harm from peers	Childcare Manager	Supervision of children at all times. Behaviour Management Programme in place addressing peer abuse, bullying, immature behaviour Staff training and supervision, Child Safeguarding Training Age-appropriate staff conversations with children ensuring they know how to voice concerns	Raising of Staff Awareness Staff Training Possible consultation with relevant, appropriate professional, referral agent. Positive discussion with parent if appropriate.
Harm from adults	Childcare Manager	Recruitment policy in place, garda vetting policy in place Induction procedure – staff informed of Child Protection Policy Codes of behaviour for all adults Staff meetings, Staff Training & Supervision, Child Safeguarding training Support given by Childcare Manager, to staff, 'live' in session appropriate to staff learning and work.	Policies and Codes updated every 2 years or as needed.
Safety of Children on Outings	Childcare Manager	Outings Policy in place Risk Assessment of venue carried out prior to visit Child Safeguarding Training Staff roles outlined on outings. Details outlined on how to address safety issues	Staff Awareness. Awareness on how the non-verbal can have an impact on children and parents.