

Child and Vulnerable Persons Safeguarding Statement

Tuar Ard Arts Centre

Moate Community Development Association CLG

Nature of Service

Tuar Ard Arts Centre is a community arts facility located in Moate, County Westmeath. The centre provides theatre, rehearsal rooms, meeting spaces and studios which are used by community groups, arts organisations, classes and cultural events.

While Tuar Ard does not directly provide programmes or services specifically for children or vulnerable adults, the building is regularly used by independent organisations, tutors and community groups who deliver activities for children, young people and adults, including dance, drama, arts and educational classes.

The organisation employs five staff members responsible for venue management, administration and facilities. Staff do not provide direct instruction, supervision or care to children or vulnerable adults participating in activities organised by external providers.

Commitment to Safeguarding

Moate Community Development Association CLG recognises its responsibility to promote the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults who may be present in the building.

The organisation is committed to implementing the principles of:

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.
- Good practice in safeguarding and protecting vulnerable adults

This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.

Risk Assessment

The following potential safeguarding risks have been identified in relation to the use of the facility:

- Activities involving children or vulnerable adults taking place on the premises delivered by external organisations or tutors
- Children or vulnerable adults accessing shared public areas within the building
- Individuals arriving or leaving activities while the building is open to the public
- Interaction between members of the public and children or vulnerable adults using the facility

Procedures to Manage Risks

To minimise these risks, the organisation has adopted the following procedures:

- Organisations or tutors delivering activities for children or vulnerable adults within the venue are expected to have their own safeguarding policies and procedures in place.
- External providers are responsible for the supervision and welfare of participants in their activities.
- Parents or guardians remain responsible for children outside organised class times.

- Any safeguarding concerns observed by staff will be reported in line with Children First guidance (for children) or appropriate safeguarding procedures (for vulnerable adults).
- Staff will cooperate with relevant statutory authorities where safeguarding concerns arise.

Designated Liaison Person

The organisation has appointed a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) to act as a point of contact for any safeguarding concerns.

Designated Liaison Person: Mary Denissen, Venue Manager

Implementation and Review

This Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and will be reviewed annually or as required by the Board of Moate Community Development Association CLG.

Child Safeguarding Reporting Procedure

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Tuar Ard Arts Centre is committed to responding appropriately to any concerns relating to the safety or welfare of children who may be present in the building.

If a member of staff becomes aware of a concern relating to the safety or welfare of a child, the following steps should be taken:

1. Record the concern as accurately as possible, noting relevant facts, observations or disclosures.
2. Report the concern to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for the organisation.

Designated Liaison Person:

Mary Denissen, Venue Manager

3. The DLP will consider whether the concern meets the threshold for reporting to Tusla – the Child and Family Agency.

Where appropriate, the DLP may make a report to Tusla in accordance with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

4. If a concern involves immediate risk of harm to a child, staff should contact emergency services or Tusla directly.

Tusla (Midlands) can be contacted at 044 9395510 or by emailing duty.socialwork@tusla.ie or via www.tusla.ie

All safeguarding concerns will be treated seriously and handled with appropriate confidentiality.