



## CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Outhouse is the LGBT+ community resource centre in Dublin. Since 1997 we have worked with LGBT+ people, including adolescents and children, to create a vibrant and safe space for LGBT+ people, groups & organisations that is inclusive of the diversity within our communities. As part of that work, we strive to ensure that children and young people who access Outhouse are safe from harm.

This statement has been developed not only to safeguard children and young people who access the centre but also families, staff, and volunteers engaged by Outhouse. This document is based on the following:

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children
- Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement
- Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure, and Practice

As an organisation, we:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children are of paramount importance, regardless of other considerations;
- comply fully with our statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities concerning child protection and welfare matters;
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect staff and volunteers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect; and
- respect in full confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

This Safeguarding Statement is displayed prominently on the Outhouse website, on our premises and at locations where we run events and services.

This Safeguarding Statement applies to all staff, interns, volunteers, board members, and individuals accessing Outhouse and events hosted by us. This Statement applies when working on any premises utilised by the organisation for its activities and when working on behalf of or representing Outhouse.

### Risk Assessment

Outhouse maintains a risk register which is regularly reviewed. As part of this, we have assessed potential harm to a child while accessing the community centre.

Below is a list of identified areas and the mitigation measures selected to address the risks:

	Risk Identified	Mitigation
1	Outhouse's personnel's lack of knowledge around internal Child Protection practices and procedures.	Child Protection Policy, Staff Handbook, External Child Protection Training
2	Users of the centre are unaware of our Child Protection Policy and Procedures.	Safeguarding Statement published on our website and displayed prominently in the centre.
3	Lack of knowledge of personnel on how to manage an allegation of abuse made by a child.	Induction process, external child protection training, child protection policy.
4	Lack of knowledge of Outhouse personnel of expected behaviour while interacting with service users.	Staff handbook and induction process.
5	Risk of harm due to inadequate recruitment procedures.	Recruitment procedures in place which comply with the requirements of the Vetting Act.

### 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 commitment to safeguard children while they are availing of the centre:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/ volunteers of a child using the centre;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers who work in the centre;
- 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 personnel employed or volunteering with the centre who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

### **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Outhouse is committed to implementing this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support it.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 2-years or as soon as practical after a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Relevant Person, as required by the Children First Act 2015, is our CEO, Oisín O'Reilly, [ceo@outhouse.ie](mailto:ceo@outhouse.ie) or 01 873 4999.

Signed:



Séamus McManus - Chairperson of the Board

Dated:

19/12/2022

