



Tara Centre Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy Statement

(Taken from Tara Centre Policy and Procedures, Appendix 18, Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures)

Our Commitment to Safeguard

Staff, service providers and volunteers in the Tara Centre are committed to practice which promotes the welfare of children and young people and protects them from harm.

We wish to ensure that all children and young people can participate in an enjoyable and safe environment in which they can have fun and feel valued.

Staff, service providers and volunteers in this organisation accept and recognise our responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause harm to children and young people, and to establish and maintain a safe environment for them. We will not tolerate any form of abuse wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible. We are committed to promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, transparency and openness and are open to feedback from the people who use our services including children and young people, their parents/carers, and our staff, service providers and volunteers with a view to how we may continuously improve our services/activities.

This safeguarding children and young people policy is intended to cover all functions of the Tara Centre where staff, service providers and volunteers have contact with children and young people in the course of their duties.

This policy will be owned at all levels within the Tara Centre. The Chairperson directs the development of the policy, the Board of Directors approves it and ensures that it is fully implemented and reviewed at regular intervals. All staff, service providers and volunteers within the Tara Centre have a responsibility for the implementation of the policy. The Designated Officer supports the implementation of the policy and has responsibility for ensuring the dissemination of the policy across the organisation i.e. that the policy statement is prominently displayed within the Tara Centre, and that all stakeholders receive or have access to a copy of the full Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, including our Board of Directors, Senior Management, children, young people, staff, service providers, volunteers, and parents and carers.

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

- adhering to our safeguarding children and young people policy and ensuring that it is supported by robust procedures;
 - carefully following the procedures laid down for the recruitment and selection of staff, service providers and volunteers;
 - providing effective management for staff, service providers and volunteers through supervision, support and training;
 - implementing clear procedures for raising awareness of and responding to abuse within the Tara Centre and for reporting concerns to statutory agencies who need to know, while involving children, young people and their parents appropriately;
 - implementing a code of behaviour for staff, service providers and volunteers;
 - sharing information about safeguarding children and good practice with children and young people, parents, staff, service providers and volunteers;
- and
- ensuring general safety and risk management procedures are adhered to.

In addition to this safeguarding children and young people policy, the Tara Centre's healthy 'organisational culture' is clearly demonstrated in its range of robust organisational policies. This policy is supported by other Tara Centre policies such as Equal Opportunities Policy, Harassment and Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure, Confidentiality Policy, Data Protection Policy, Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy.

The Tara Centre is committed to reviewing this policy every three years. The next review will take place in June 2020, unless there is a significant change to legislation, policy, procedure or practice in the interim.