



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

VERSION 2.0
STATUS: APPROVED

10 MARCH 2018

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1 NAME OF ORGANISATION & SERVICES PROVIDED

Brosna Educational Centres CLG (“Brosna”) is a registered charity (CHY 6329) that manages centres for adults and minors at several locations in the Republic of Ireland. Centres for young people typically provide some or all of the following services:

- Facilities and supporting activities for supervised study and after-school homework.
- Character building workshops and events.
- Faith formation activities and facilities.
- Activities in the areas of Arts & Crafts, Electronics, Cookery, Diorama, Movie-making & Animation, etc.
- Sports activities (often in conjunction with external providers)
- Outdoor & adventure activities (often in conjunction with external providers)
- Cultural trips and camps in Ireland and abroad.

1.1 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Each Brosna centre has a Management Committee answerable to the Brosna Board of Trustees. Typically, the Management Committee is composed of a Director, an Assistant Director and a Secretary.

Besides the Committee, a Youth Centre may have several senior leaders, with responsibility for different age groups or activities.

Some centres also engage junior leaders (i.e. minors) to help occasionally in some of the activities.

For particular events and activities, external instructors or experts may take care of a particular group of participants under the supervision of a Brosna leader.

2 COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

Brosna is committed to safeguarding children participating in our activities and to providing a safe environment in which they can play, learn and develop.

Brosna believes that the welfare of the children attending our centres is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our activities with minors.

We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our centres, including the right to be protected from harm, listened to, and heard.

Our policy and procedures to safeguard children reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*, the *Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017*, and the *Children First Act, 2015*.

The Brosna Child Safeguarding Manual (“CS Manual”) is published on our website:

<http://brosna.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Brosna-CS-Manual.pdf>

Our centres also draw on specific NYCI guidance – *Working Safely in a Youth Club*:

<http://www.youth.ie/sites/youth.ie/files/NYCI-Working-Safely-in-a-Youth-Club.pdf>

Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee members and other leaders within our organisation. All committee members, staff and other leaders must sign up to, and abide by, the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.

We 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.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*, Brosna's Safeguarding Children Committee has carried out an assessment of potential for harm to a child while attending a Brosna centre or participating in a centre's activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing those risks is summarised below.

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
Those that work with children are unsafe to do so	Those who wish to be engaged by Brosna in work with children must comply with our vetting and recruitment procedures, see CS Manual, section II-3, III-6 etc.
Those that work with children behave inappropriately towards them	Those who are engaged by Brosna in work with children are trained in, and commit in writing to, our policy and procedures, see CS Manual, section II-2, 4 & 5 and III-1
Children who use our services do not understand the roles and responsibilities in place to encourage positive behaviour	Guardians and children who avail of our services for young people are instructed in the appropriate code of behaviour and informed of our policy and procedures, see CS Manual, section III-1
The environment, in which work with children is facilitated, fails to meet effective safeguarding practice	Codes of Behaviour, Risk Assessment Forms, Parental Consent Forms, Attendance records, Supervision ratios, Accident and Incident Plans are used in relevant activities, see CS Manual, section III-1, 4, 7, 8 & 9.
Those who wish to behave dangerously or unethically towards children are able to do so	A code of practice on whistleblowing and non-abuse complaints, to facilitate the correction of shortcomings within the organisation, is being prepared.
Those who wish to exploit children through the use of digital media in our activities are able to do so	Access to broadband internet in the centre is set up with adequate filtering technology. Immoderate use of smartphones is discouraged and curtailed when necessary. The code of conduct for leaders includes rules on the use of digital technology, see CS Manual, section III-1.
Brosna personnel fail to report an allegation, suspicion, concern or knowledge appropriately	Leaders are trained in the content of CS Manual sections II-5, 6 and 7 on the recognition, response to and reporting of concerns of child sexual abuse.

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
Brosna personnel fail to understand their responsibilities to safeguard children	All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module, <i>Introduction to Children First</i> , and relevant staff have attended NYCI Child Protection Training. Staff are familiar with the NYCI's <i>Working Safely in a Youth Club</i> document, see above.
Risks associated with residential and overnight activities.	Bedroom, camping, showering and sanitary facilities in every venue chosen for such activities must provide suitable separation for adults and minors.

4 CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

As indicated 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 and applicable to all Brosna youth centres:

- Mandated Persons:
 - The Director of Child Safeguarding (1)
 - The Designated Liaison Person (1)
 - Directors of Brosna Centres with Youth Activities who are employed by Brosna (4)
 - Chaplains to Brosna Youth Centres (4)

- Relevant Person:
 - Luison Lasalla,
 - Gort Ard University Residence,
 - Rockbarton North, Salthill, Galway, H91 KH94
 - Email: luison@brosna.ie
 - Mobile: +353 86 085 3096

- Designated Liaison Person:
 - Pat Hanratty
 - 36 Rathfarnham Wood, Dublin 14
 - Email: athanratty@gmail.com
 - Mobile: +353 87 273 1904

- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures (refer to CS Manual, II-1)
- Confidentiality Policy (refer to CS Manual, II-8)
- Policy for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect Against Employees (refer to CS Manual, II-5, II-6 & II-7)
- Procedure for Managing Child Protection Records (refer to CS Manual, II-8)
- Recruitment Policy (refer to CS Manual, II-3)
- Garda Vetting Policy (refer to CS Manual, II-3)
- Code of Behaviour for Working with Children (refer to CS Manual, III-1)
- Induction Policy - which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures (refer to CS Manual, II-4)
- All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – Introduction to Children First and relevant staff have attended NYCI Child Protection Training.

- Staff are familiar with the NYCI's Working Safely in a Youth Club, see above.
- Policy for Managing Outings (refer to CS Manual, III-1)
- Policy for Managing Accidents and Incidents (refer to CS Manual, II-2)

5 IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Brosna 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 services.

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 Brosna's website and is available in all relevant centres. A copy of this Statement is available to Tusla and to all relevant parties on request. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved in youth work. It is readily accessible by parents and guardians.

Signed: 

Date: 10/3/2018

Maura O'Riordan,
Chairperson,
Brosna Educational Centres CLG

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on this Statement please contact:

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