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# Child Safeguarding Statement

1. **Name of service being provided:**

dlr Leisure promotes leisure facilities and sporting experiences that are accessible, inclusive and customer focused.  We strive to deliver high standards by qualified staff to enhance and support a healthy lifestyle.

1. **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm**

dlr Leisure has a legal and moral responsibility to create and maintain the safest possible environment for children to enjoy sports and other recreational, social and leisure pursuits provided directly by us. dlr Leisure accepts that in all matters concerning child protection, the welfare and protection of the young person is paramount. We will adhere to the Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

Any person who suspects that a child is being abused, or is at risk of abuse, has a responsibility and a duty of care to report their concerns to the Child Protection Liaison Office for each dlr Leisure Centre.

dlr Leisure’s Safeguarding of Children & Vulnerable Persons Policy provides additional details, which are referenced below.

1. **Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

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|  | Risk identified | **Procedure in place to manage identified risk** |
| 1 | Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff or volunteer. | Appropriate recruitment and selection of employees, volunteers and promotion of employees  Implementing the Garda Vetting Procedures for all relevant employees and volunteers; (reference National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act, 2012)  Appropriate management, supervision and training of employees  Consent for a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure |
| 2 | Risk of harm to a child from a customer (adult or child), visitor or member of the public. | Supervision/ accompaniment/ admission/ policies as relevant to public leisure facilities  Policies, procedures and guidelines regarding safeguarding children placed in our care. |
| 3 | Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported by dlr leisure staff | Staff information and supervision,  Reporting policy,  Mandatory children first staff training.  Staff questionnaire on child protection policies. |
| 4 | Non- compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and children First National Guidance for the protection and Welfare of Children. | Regular updated list of mandated persons |

1. **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 intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

* Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
* Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
* 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 the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
* Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

1. **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 12th December 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Provider)

dlr Leisure

For queries, please contact The Centre Manager or Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015