CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Document Title:	Child Safeguarding Statement	
Document Author and Relevant	Ciara Watson, Little Stars on the	
Person under Children First Act 2015:	Lane.	
Document Approved:	Kara Gargolinski Mc Alister	
Date the Document is Effective From:	29/05/2023	
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Number of Pages:	Insert 14	

1. Type of Service

Little Stars on the Lane is a Full Day Care Service, including full time care for preschool children in accordance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and school aged care for children aged from 4 – 12 (Junior Infants to sixth class (afterschool service, in accordance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age services) Regulations 2018

This Service is privately owned by Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski McAlister

Activities/ Services provided:

We offer a range of activities in our afterschool. Children have ample time to relax and play in our beautiful garden. We offer arts and crafts, free coding classes, dancing, and play as our main activities. We also try to bring a little language into the afterschool with a little Irish and French. This language is done informally rather than through formal classes.

We believe the following:

Our priority is to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service. This is paramount to their wellbeing whilst in our care.

Our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles every 2 years.

All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.

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

Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.

Volunteers, workers and staff must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

KEY INFORMATION

Opening Hours:	7.30 - 6.30 (out of term time). $1 - 6.30$ term time Afterschool open from school pick up to 6.30pm and from 7.30am to school drop off times.
No of Weeks per year:	50
Capacity:	50 afterschool children
Age Range:	Afterschool from 4 (Junior Infant age) to 12 (6th class age)
Ratios:	Afterschool 1:12
Curriculum/Learning Ethos:	Play. Children are also taught language and coding free of charge in the afterschool
Address:	1 Seagreen Gate, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
Phone Number:	087 9261318
Email:	ciara@naionra.org

Key Personnel: In-House

Manager (Person in charge):	Kara Gargolinski Mc Alister	
Deputy in the absence of Manager:	Nina Patterson	
Health and Safety Officer:	Nina Patterson, Ciara Watson	
Fire Officer:	Nina Patterson, Ciara Watson	
First Aid Co-ordinator:	Nina Pattterson, Ciara Watson	
Designated Liaison Officer:	Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski Mc Alister	
Deputy Designated Liaison Officer:	Nina Patterson	
Data Controller:	Ciara Watson	

Key Personnel: External

TUSLA Early Years Inspection	Mona Condon.	
Team:	Mona.condon@tusla.ie	
TUSLA Social Work Department:	Wicklow child protection unit: 01 9213400	
Contact:		
Garda:	Garda Station: 01 666 5800	
Contact:		
Doctor:	Dr. Nicola Cochrane, Carrig Clinic: 287 5932	
Contact:		
Pharmacist:	Mc Sherrys Pharmacy Kilcoole	
Contact:	2870400	
Hospital:	Tallaght Children's Hospital	
Contact: 01 4142000		
Fire Brigade:	999 / 112	
Fire Maintenance:	Larry Browne Fire Protection	
Contact:	053 9131281	

Pest Control:	Martin Everest Pest Control 087 837583	
Contact:		
Garda Vetting:	Early Childhood Ireland	
Contact:	01 4057100	

1. Principles

Our priority is to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service. The safety and welfare of the child is paramount to us. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review out guiding principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures every 12 months at least. We understand fully that the safeguarding of children is every adult's responsibility. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm, to be listened to and to be heard. We understand that all children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background. Therefore, we are committed to ensure that all children in Little Stars on the Lane are protected and kept safe from harm while they are in our care. We do this by:

- Making sure that our staff and students are carefully selected, trained and supervised.
- Having procedures readily in place to recognise, respond to and report concerns in relation to children's protection and welfare.
- Making sure all staff are Garda vetted prior to engagement.
- Having clear Codes of Behaviour for management, staff and students in the form of a Handbook.
- Having a procedure to respond to accidents and incidents.
- Giving parents/guardians, children and staff information about what we do and what to expect from us.
- Letting parents/guardians and children know how to voice their concerns or complain if there is something that they are not happy about. Having a procedure to respond to these complaints.

- Having a clear reporting procedure to be followed should a staff member have a concern about a child in line with the obligations of Mandated persons outlined in *Children First (2017) and The Children First Act 2015.*
- Having a procedure to respond to allegations of abuse and neglect against staff members.
- Having a system where the policy and safeguarding statement is reviewed annually at least by the Management, or as regularly as is required following any changes or updates.

Risk Assessment

All potential risks have a relevant procedure to manage the risks as outlined below

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while availing of our service:
- Any allegations of abuse or misconduct will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. Our extensive child protection policy will be implemented and advice will be sought immediately by Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski McAlister (DLP) by the on duty social worker in the child protection unit. They have built a relationship over many years with the team.
- Procedure for selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regard to that person's suitability to work with children:
- Any person recruited to the service will firstly engage in a number of interviews. If a person passes the interview stage and financial packages are negotiated an offer is made subject to paperwork and vetting. All staff are required to pass garda vetting, international vetting if required, submit all paperwork and complete TUSLA child protection training prior to commencing employment with us. Once started, we have a full training and induction programme that each staff member engages in. Our afterschool team are then buddied with another team member for a further period of time until it is deemed they are ready to work independently. We continue to work in teams to ensure safety and consistency of care.
- Procedure for the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training to members of staff of the provider in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- All staff must conduct TUSLA training (universal e learning) prior to starting with us.

- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- We have an active colleague log. (submitted) and all staff attending are mandated persons, trained in child protection.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person for the purposes of the Statement. The owners are heavily involved in a running of the service and have between them 35 years experience of running preschools and creches.

RISK	PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE	RESPONSIBILITY
IDENTIFIED	RISK	

1.Risk of harm setting (as	Procedures in place:	Management, Staff, DLPs
defined in the Children First	Anti-bullying Policy including Anti-Cyber- Bullying	Stall, DEI 3
Act 2015) of bullying (inc	Internet, Photography and Recording Devices Policy.	
online abuse/ cyber-bullying) a child by a member of	Parents are aware of Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy and their responsibilities.	
staff/volunteer/ peer	School-Aged children aware of the policy regarding phones, tablets and other devices. This is outlined to all School aged	
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015)	children and repeated regularly throughout their time with us and as required.	
of a child through the use of unauthorised	No use of mobile phones permitted by staff or School-aged children inside care rooms (safe storage is provided).	
photography; o Risk of	Staff Training in Child Safeguarding [and Online Safety]	
harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through	Supervision of Children Policy (awareness of any area blind-spots and enhanced supervision of these)	
social media/	Discipline and Complaints Procedure.	
internet use;	No Child or Phones/Devices policy.	
Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: Repeated acts of bullying (i.e., verbal or psychological) in the form of taunting, criticising, slagging, humiliating, excluding etc.	School-Aged children have access to complaints policy in child-friendly format	
Children using social media platforms to post derogatory or harmful threats or comments, or unauthorised photographs of other children.		

2. Risk of harm	Procedures in place:	Management,
(as defined in the Children First Act 2015)	Vetting in place to include Garda vetting, police checks, validated references.	Staff, DLPs
of sexual abuse or abuse of a child	Supervision of Children Policy (awareness of any area blind-spots and enhanced supervision of these).	
within the setting by a	Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy	
member of staff/student or peer/visitor/ contractor	No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel. Staff are trained to recognise signs and aware of mandated requirement to report.	
Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:	Staff trained in Child Safeguarding (Children First) and aware of types and signs.	
Children placed at risk due to inadequate	DLPs appointed.	
Supervision. Children being harmed because of staff not reporting	Student/Volunteers or unqualified staff not permitted to carry out Nappy Changing or Toileting Assistance.	
appropriate concerns. Children being harmed by inappropriate actions or	Parents/Guardians/Siblings not permitted into Toilet or any areas of the creche and afterschool that includes any intimate routines such as staff changing, children changing, nappy changing.	
interactions by staff.	Mandated persons named and listed.	
An incident of sexual abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer	Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be arranged by appointment only and when children are not present.	
	School-Aged children have access to	

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2.	Risk of	Procedures in place:	Management,
	harm (as defined by the	Vetting in place to include Garda vetting, police checks, validated references.	Staff, DLPs
	Children First Act 2015) or physical	No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel. Staff are trained to recognise signs and aware of mandated requirement to report.	
	, psycholo gical/	Staff trained in child safeguarding (Children First).	
	emotiona I harm of	DLPs appointed.	
	a child by a member	Supervision of Children Policy (awareness of any area blind-spots and enhanced supervision of these).	
	of staff/ voluntee	Child Safeguarding Policy	
	r/	Managing Behaviour Policy in place.	
	Contract or.	Positive Reinforcement Skills and Strategies only used.	
3.	Risk of harm (as defined in	Staff trained in evidence-based behaviour management strategies.	
	the Children	Staff Supports available for managing specifically challenging behaviours.	
	First Act 2015) of	Mandated persons named and listed.	
	a child by a	Disciplinary Procedure.	
	member of staff/ volunteer;	Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be by appointment only and arranged when children are not	
•	es of risk but are not to:	present (out-of-hours)	
	handling of	School-Aged children have access to complaints policy in child-friendly format	
way tha	by staff in a t causes a child.	Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to	
shouting chastisi to the e	lunteers g at or ng children xtent that it harm to a	Tusla by the provider or a member of staff of the provider (whether mandated or otherwise); Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski McAlister as DLPs have a relationship with Child Protection officer in TUSLA and	

4.Risk of harm (as defined by the Children First Act 2015)	Supervision of Children Procedure/Policy (no unsupervised access to children by visitors or contractors)	M a n a g e m e n t , staff, DLPs
of a child from	Visitor Signing in Procedure/Policy	
an unauthorised	Child Safeguarding Policy	
Visitor/ Contractor	No unsupervised access by unauthorised personnel.	
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service;	Visitors or persons unknown to staff will not have unsupervised access and visiting times will, if possible, be arranged by appointment only and when children are not present.	
Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:		
Children placed at risk due to inadequate supervision		
Risk of children absconding from services due to procedures for entering and exiting buildings not being adhered to, such as doors being closed etc.		
Risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse to children		

5. Lost child	Procedures in place	Management,
Examples of risk include, but are not	Missing Child Policy in place and followed.	Staff, DLPs
limited to: Risk of children	Outings Policy in place and followed.	
absconding from services due to	Fully secured Entrance and Exit points.	
procedures for entering and exiting buildings not being	Risk Assessments and Safety Audits carried out.	
adhered to, such as doors being closed	Critical Incident Plan in place.	
etc. Risk of physical,	DLPs appointed.	
sexual or emotional abuse to children	CCTV in working use	
from strangers Children placed at risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Only authorised Persons allowed access to the service.	

	Behaviour management policy	Management, Staff, DLPs
in the CFA 2015) of a child by bullying by a peer or older child/ young person.	Staff supervision in place	

6.Accidents	Procedures in place	Management,
Caused by Neglect	Safety Policy and Statement in place and followed.	Staff, DLPs
Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: Child tripping or	Daily Risk Assessments (Manager's Morning Check and Care Room Risk Assessments) carried out.	
falling due to unnoticed hazards.	Monthly and annual Safety Audits carried out.	
Accidentally ingestion of a hazardous substance due to	Risk Assessments carried out following an accident and corrective action taken.	
poor storage and accessibility. Choking as a result of being left	Close Supervision during all mealtimes (and awareness of any area blind-spots and enhanced supervision of these).	
unattended while eating.	Accident and Incident Policy in place and followed.	
	Correct storage procedures for all potentially hazardous substances (cleaning and medications).	
	Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by the provider or a member of staff of the provider (whether mandated or otherwise); Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski McAlister as DLPs have a relationship with Child Protection officer in TUSLA and	
7.Medical	Procedures in place	Management,
Neglect	Medicines Policy in place and followed.	staff, DLPs
Examples of risk include, but are not	Parental Consent Forms signed.	
limited to: Accidentally ingestion of a hazardous substance due to poor storage and accessibility.	Individual Child Care/Emergency Plans are in place and followed.	
	Inaccessible safe storage and labelling of Medicines in place.	
Failure to administer required medication to a child.		
Failure to fallow		

8.Child not	Procedures in place	Management,
collected/ Unauthorised collection and Access Rights or Persons unfit to collect Risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse to children from strangers or unauthorised care persons. Children placed at	Collections Policy in place and followed.	staff, DLPs
	Authorised/Emergency Collectors available. Parental Agreements & Permissions in place.	
	Photo Identification and/or Password in place for emergency collectors.	
	Child Registration Form fully completed with emergency contacts and authorisations listed. Amendments made to Authorised Collection List as necessary.	
risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or care	Children are not released to unauthorised persons.	
capabilities of unauthorised persons.	Where there is a dispute between parents, we will seek legal clarification regarding access and may require copies of a court order (Request in Child Reg Form).	
	If we have never met a parent and a parent is not listed on the registration form, we may seek clarification of identity from parent/guardian before engaging with the collector, and subsequently photographic identification once clarity is sought.	
	Children will not be released to parents/ guardians who are in an unfit state. Alternative Authorised person will be contacted, or Gardaí will be phoned.	
	School aged children have access to child- friendly policy	

9. Unvetted	Procedures in place	Management,
Staff or students that	Recruitment and Selection Policy in place.	Staff, DLPs
may lead to children being harmed (including not recognising or	Garda Vetting Policy in place (Process to Fully completed before commencement of work). No unsupervised access to children by unvetted persons (or vetted students/ visitors/contractors)	
reporting signs of abuse)	Relevant validated References available for all staff.	
Examples of risk include, but are not	Child Safeguarding Policy in place.	
limited to: Children placed at risk due to	Risk Assessment of Disclosures on Garda Vetting forms completed if required.	
inadequate supervision	Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to	
Children being harmed as a result of staff not reporting appropriate concerns	Tusla by the provider or a member of staff of the provider (whether mandated or otherwise); Ciara Watson and Kara	
Children being harmed by inappropriate actions or	Gargolinski McAlister as DLPs have a relationship with Child Protection officer in TUSLA and	

10.Risk of abuse by staff / volunteers/ visitors not knowing correct procedures (such as not recognising or reporting signs of abuse) <i>Examples of risk</i>	Staff Training Procedure/Policy Staff Supervision Procedure/Policy Reporting Procedure/Policy Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy Allegations of Abuse against Staff/Students/ Volunteers Procedure/Policy Complaints Procedure/Policy Code of Behaviour for staff and volunteers Procedures/Policy	Management, Staff, DLPs
Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: Children placed at risk due to inadequate supervision	Procedures/Policy Procedure/Policy on Managing Behaviour No unsupervised access to children by students, volunteers, visitors or any unvetted personnel.	
Children being harmed as a result of staff not reporting appropriate concerns Children being harmed by		

11.Poor	Procedures in place	Management,
behaviour strategies where the	Managing Behaviour Policy in place and followed.	staff, DLPs
dignity of the child is undermined	Positive Reinforcement Skills and Strategies only used.	
	No Corporal punishment.	
Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:	No isolation or exemption used.	
Rough handling of	Disciplinary procedures.	
children by staff in a way that causes harm to a child.	Professional assistance and support sought for very challenging behaviour	
Staff/volunteers shouting at or chastising children to the extent that it	Staff trained in evidence-based behaviour management strategies, example, Incredible Years.	
causes harm to a child.	Management support provided to staff in relation to very challenging behaviour	
Exemption, humiliation or isolation methods used to behaviour		

12.Risk of harm	Procedures in place	Management,
(as defined by the Children	All Outings/excursions risk assessed.	Staff, DLP
First Act 2015)	Risk checklist used.	
or abuse of a child when on outings by	Vetting in place to include Garda vetting, police checks, validated references.	
Staff Member/ Student/ Peer	No unsupervised access to children by unauthorised or unvetted personnel.	
Or Risk of harm	Staff aware of mandated requirement to report abuse.	
(as defined in	Staff trained in child safeguarding.	
the CFA 2015) of a child on	Critical Incident Plan in Place.	
outings by a member of staff/volunteer/ stranger/peer;	Supervision (assessment and awareness of any area blind-spots and enhanced supervision of these).	
Examples of risk	DLPs appointed.	
include, but are not limited to:	Regular head-counting and roll calls in place on outings.	
Children placed at risk of harm due to	Mandated persons named and listed.	
inadequate supervision on outings	For each outing being considered in the service, a bespoke outings policy and risk	
A child going missing, or is unaccounted for, for any period of time	assessment is drafted, taking note of all specific risks and actions arising form that specific outing and location.	
	Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by the provider or a member of staff of the provider (whether mandated or otherwise); Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski McAlister as DLPs have a relationship with Child Protection officer in TUSLA and will seek advice and report as	

13. Access to	Procedures in place:	Management,
inappropriate / harmful online internet	Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy.	staff, DLPs
harmful online	Devices Policy. No use of mobile phones permitted by staff or School-aged children inside classrooms (safe storage is provided). Supervision of Children Policy. Staff Training in Online Safety. Parental Consent Forms completed. No images of children published externally or on social media, without parent/guardian consent. Identities protected. Parents are aware of Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy and their responsibilities. School-Aged children aware of the policy regarding phones, tablets and other devices and this is discussed regularly and as needed in our day in afterschool. Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by the provider or a member of staff of the provider (whether mandated or otherwise); Ciara Watson and Kara	staff, DLPs
	Gargolinski McAlister as DLPs have a relationship with Child Protection officer in TUSLA and will seek advice and report as required.	

14. Risk of harm (as defined by the Children First Act 2015) of a child from unauthorised Photography in the setting	Procedures: No use of mobile phones permitted by staff or School-aged children inside classrooms (safe storage is provided). Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy. Staff Training in Online Safety.	Management, staff, DLPs
Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:	Parents are aware of Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy and their responsibilities.	
Unauthorised distribution of a	Social Media Procedure/Policy	
photo of a child on social media or other platforms.	Retention of Records Procedure/Policy	
Poor management of images or recordings of children, including		

Responsibility

The Manager and / or DLP is fully responsible for ensuring the above risks are managed.

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance* 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:

- Procedures to manage any risk identified.
- Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by the as provider Little Stars on the Lane or member of staff (whether mandated or not).
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while attending our service.
- Procedure for selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regards to that person's suitability to work with children.

- Procedure for the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training to members of staff in relation to the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for maintain a list of mandated people.
- Procedure for the appointment of a relevant person for the purposes of this statement who is Ciara Watson

This Safeguarding Statement will be displayed Prominently

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our Service is fully 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 service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every *twelve months* or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

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

Signed:	(Provider) Date
Name	Tel
Relevant Person unde	r the Children First Act 2015
Name	Tel

For further information on this Statement please contact the named **Relevant Person: Ciara Watson**

Ciara Watson: __Ciara Watson____ [MANAGER/DLP/FIRST POINT OF CONTACT]

CONTACT: _____087 9261318_____