

# Tullamore TradFest Child Protection Safety Statement

## Introduction

Tullamore Tradfest recognises its responsibility to ensure that a safe environment is provided for all children and vulnerable adults taking part in its activities. This policy specifies how we will provide a safe environment and protect children and vulnerable adults while they are taking part in Tullamore Tradfest events and projects.

It also aims to protect Tullamore Tradfest committee members and volunteers from situations where they may feel threatened or open to suspicion or accusation.

### **This policy covers the following Tullamore Tradfest activities:**

- Recruitment of freelancers and volunteers.
- Adult, family other related performing events where volunteers or freelancers come into direct contact with children or vulnerable adults.
- Workshop tutors with voluntary organisations and groups where freelancers or volunteers come into direct contact with children or vulnerable adults.

## Code of Behaviour for Staff

Following this code of conduct will allow Tullamore Tradfest staff and volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults to avoid most situations in which they may be compromised.

## You should

- Treat all children, vulnerable adults and young people equally.
- Listen to and respect children, vulnerable adults and young people.
- Involve children and young people in decision making (as appropriate).
- Provide encouragement, support and praise (regardless of ability).
- Use appropriate language.
- Have fun and encourage a positive atmosphere.
- Offer constructive criticism when needed.
- Treat all children, vulnerable adults and young people as individuals
- Respect a child's, vulnerable adult's or young person's personal space.
- Discuss boundaries on behaviour and related sanctions, as appropriate, with children, vulnerable adults and young people and their primary carers.
- Encourage feedback from group.
- Use age appropriate teaching aids and materials
- Lead by example.
- Be aware of a child's or young person's other commitments when scheduling rehearsals or activities.
- Be cognisant of a child's, vulnerable adult's or young person's limitations, due to a medical condition for example
- Create an atmosphere of trust.
- Respect differences of ability, culture, religion, race and sexual orientation.

## Good Practice

- Make available Tullamore Tradfest Child Protection Policy and procedures to primary carers, children/young people, visitors and facilitators if requested.
- Be inclusive of children, vulnerable adults and young children with special needs.
- Plan and be sufficiently prepared both mentally and physically
- Report any concerns to the Designated Person
- Observe appropriate dress and behaviour.
- Report any incidents and accidents.
- Update and review policies and procedures on a regular basis.
- Ensure proper supervision based on adequate ratios according to age, abilities and activities involved.
- Ensure clear communication between artist and Tullamore Tradfest committee.
- Don't be passive in relation to concerns i.e. don't 'do' nothing.
- Don't let a problem get out of control.
- Avoid being alone with children, young person or vulnerable adults e.g. taking them to the toilet
- Avoid taking a session on your own. If this is not possible then it should be in an open environment with the full knowledge and consent of primary carers.
- Avoid if at all possible giving a lift to a child/young person.
- Maintain awareness around language and comments made. If you think that something you said may have caused offence or upset, then try to address it in a sensitive manner.

## Inappropriate Behaviour

- Do not allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Do not use actions or language that may cause a child, young person or vulnerable adult to lose self-esteem or confidence.
- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children/young people/vulnerable adult.
- Do not hit or physically chastise children/young people/vulnerable adults
- Do not socialise inappropriately with children/young people/vulnerable adults.

## Health and Safety

- Don't leave children unattended or unsupervised.
- Manage any dangerous materials.
- Provide a safe environment.

## Reporting Procedures

James Hogan has been designated as the person to contact if there is an issue or concern about any aspect of a child's, vulnerable adult's or young person's safety and welfare. It is the responsibility of this person to support and advise Tullamore Tradfest committee about policy and procedures in relation to child protection and to ensure procedures are followed.

**Designated Person:** James Hogan, Lockclose, Killeigh, Tullamore, Co.Offaly, Tel:0879422853

**Deputy Designated Person:** Tommy Craven, Glaskill Avenue, Screggan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Tel:0879937373

## Reasonable Grounds for Concern

- Specific Indication from the child, vulnerable adult or young person that s/he has been abused.
- An account by a person who saw the child/young person/vulnerable adult being abused.
- Evidence, such as an injury or behaviour, which is consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused another way.
- An injury or behaviour which is consistent both with abuse and with an innocent explanation but where there are corroborative indicators supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse.
- Consistent indication, over a period of time, that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.

## Recording Procedures

An incident book will be kept by James Hogan.

Tullamore Tradfest Committee members should record the following information in relation to children and young people/vulnerable adults:

- Suspicions
- Concerns
- Accidents
- Worrying Observations
- Behavioural Changes
- Actions and Outcomes

## Procedure for dealing with a disclosure

- Stay calm and listen to the child/young person/vulnerable adult, allow him or enough time to say what s/he needs to say.
- Don't use leading questions or prompt details.
- Reassure the child/young person/vulnerable adult but do not promise to keep anything secret.
- Don't make the child/young person/vulnerable adult repeat the details unnecessarily.
- Explain to the child/young person/vulnerable adult what will happen next.

## Reporting Procedures

- Actions and outcomes should be noted.
- Record all details, including the date, time and people involved in the concern or disclosure and the facts in the incident book. Information recorded should be factual. Any opinions should be supported by facts.
- Inform the designated person or his/her deputy, if unavailable.
- The most appropriate person should discuss the concern or consult with primary carers. Parents, carers or responsible adults should be made aware of a report to the HSE unless it is likely to put the child/young person/vulnerable adult at further risk.
- The Designated Person may contact the Health Service Executive Duty Social Work Department for an informal consultation prior to making a report.
- Information will be shared on a strictly 'need to know' basis.

**Tullamore Garda Station: 0579327600**

**Child protection services and social work Laois/Offaly.**

**Tel: 0579370700**

## Confidentiality Statement

We in Tullamore Tradfest are committed to ensuring peoples' rights to confidentiality. However, in relation to child protection and welfare we undertake that

- Information will only be forwarded on a 'need to know' basis in order to safeguard the child/young person
- Giving such information to others for the protection of a child or young person is not a breach of confidentiality.
- We cannot guarantee total confidentiality where the best interests of the child /vulnerable adult or young person are at risk.
- Primary carers, children and young person have a right to know if personal information is being shared and/or a report is being made to the HSE, unless doing so could put the vulnerable adult/child/young person at further risk.
- Images of a child/young person/vulnerable adult will not be used for any reason without the consent of the parent/carer ( however, we cannot guarantee that cameras/videos will not be used at public performances)
- Procedures will be put in place in relation to the use of images of children/young people.
- Procedures will also be put in place for the recording and storing of information in line with our confidentiality policy.

## Volunteer Management Policy Statement

- New volunteers will be made aware of Tullamroe Tradfest code of conduct, child protection procedures and the identity and role of who has been designated to deal with issues of concern.

It is our policy that volunteers do not have unsupervised access to children and vulnerable adults as per the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012-2016

### **In the event of complaints or comments:**

- James Hogan has responsibility for directing complaints/comments to the appropriate person.
- Verbal complaints will be logged and responded to.

### **Accidents Procedure**

- Children and young people/vulnerable adults must be advised of risks of dangerous materials.
- The location of incident/accident books must be made known to staff.
- Committee members trained in First Aid: James Hogan, Civil Defence Team
- Location of First Aid Boxes: All venues are regularly reviewed to determine location of first aid boxes



# CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

## 1. Name of organisation

Tullamore Tradfest Ltd

## 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The Tullamore Tradfest committee recognises their responsibility to ensure that a safe environment is provided for all children taking part in their activities. This Child Safeguarding Statement specifies how we will provide a safe environment and protect children while they are taking part in Tullamore Tradfest events and projects. Tullamore Tradfest is a community initiative to create a traditional Irish Music festival to be held in Tullamore in April every year. Tullamore Tradfest intends to flood Tullamore with traditional Irish music on these dates, sharing the rich traditional music heritage that County Offaly possesses. We are aiming to attract visitors from around the country and abroad to our town to experience the many wonderful attractions Tullamore and indeed County Offaly has to offer. We have set our sights high and plan to bring a mixture of the very best internationally, nationally and locally acclaimed musicians to Tullamore to perform in concerts, sessions, recitals and workshops on the dates in question. We have a huge number of events organised such as concerts, recitals, family events, workshops and obviously we have the core element of any Tradfest, a session trail. The beauty of the session trail is that it runs all weekend long, in many venues across the town, entry is totally free and the line up includes many of Ireland's leading traditional musicians.

### 3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below are a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Workshop leaders, artists and volunteers unsuitable for working with children</b>
<b>1</b> Workshop leaders, artists and volunteers unsuitable for working with children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workshop leaders, artists and volunteers to work with children.</li><li>• Garda vetting of those working with children.</li><li>• Garda vetted committee member to be present at events/projects</li><li>• Code of Behaviour &amp; Child Protection Policy given to those working with children in advance of event</li></ul>

**2** Workshop leaders, artists and volunteers ill-equipped to safeguard children from harm

- Implement procedure for provision of and access to

child safeguarding training and information

**3a** Child unsure about how or to whom to report an issue

**3b** Person unsure as to how or to whom to voice a concern about a child at risk

- Ensure reporting procedures are accessible and easily available at every event
- Child Protection Policy published on website
- Child Protection Policy available at every event
- Procedures outlined in Volunteer Handbook, at volunteer training and in Volunteer Management Policy

**4.** Inappropriate use or dissemination of children's images or information

- Ensure all staff and volunteers adhere to social/media procedures including consent sought for the taking and use of images
- Consent forms given to parents at workshops/events as per Child Protection Policy

## **4. 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 Túsla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

## **5. Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 in September 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

*Ratified by Tullamore Tradfest Committee on 27/09/2024*