



Child Safeguarding Statement

Hillview Resource Centre recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/legal guardians to do this. All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

Hillview Resource Centre is a family resource centre providing services to children through the Early Years Service, Counselling, Play/Creative & Art Therapies, programmed activities for children and Family. Hillview Resource Centre provides services across the life cycle to families in the Hillview Estate and wider Dublin 16 area.

Child Safeguarding Statement

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Board of Management of Hillview Resource Centre has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document and those to report a Child Protection concern to are:

- 1 Relevant Person is **Claire McEwen, Project Manager**
- 2 Designated Liaison Person is **Storm Pyper-O'Neill, Early Years & Family Support Coordinator**
- 3 Deputy Designated Liaison Person is **Sunniva Lyons, Senior Room Leader**

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of community life and must be reflected in all of the centres policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, Hillview Resource Centre will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

Hillview Resource Centre will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents encourage parental involvement in the services of Hillview Resource Centre.
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

4 The Following Procedures are in Place:

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, Hillview Resource Centre adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (*Children and Vulnerable Persons*) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars. All staff and volunteers who work directly with children are vetted in advance of starting their work in Hillview Resource Centre.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) Hillview Resource Centre will:
 - provide each member of staff with a copy of the s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensure every staff member completes the online introduction to children first and completes certification
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training

- The Family Support Department maintains records of all staff and Board member training
 - In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all Hillview Resource Centre staff are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First. For any mandated staff e.g. therapists/counsellors etc they have to report concerns to Tusla either on their own or with the Relevant Person – **Claire McEwen**, Project Manager or DLP - **Storm Pyper-O’Neill**, Early Years & Family Support Coordinator
 - In Hillview Resource Centre the Board of Management has appointed the **Project Manager** as the “*relevant person*” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
 - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending Hillview Resource Centre or any of its services. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the centres procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.
- 5 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been adopted and signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

June Harrison

Chairperson of Board of Directors

Carmel Lynch

Secretary to the Board of Directors