

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service:

Common Ground, The Lodge, 47 St Vincent Street West, Inchicore, Dublin 8.

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

Established in 1999, Common Ground is an arts organisation based in Inchicore, Dublin 8. We bring local people and professional artists together creating opportunities for them to make art and imagine what's possible.

Common Ground's mission is to act and advocate for equal access to and participation in arts and culture in our communities.

Common Ground respects the rights of all children and young people. We believe that they all have the right to be safe from all harm. We will listen to them and take what they have to say seriously. Everyone who works here will be carefully selected, trained and supervised. We will share information with children and young people, their parents/guardians, and staff. We will always inform TUSLA when we have 'reasonable grounds for concern' that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected.

3. Risk Assessment

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

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm not being recognised by staff and Artists	All staff & Artists provided with Child Protection Policy. All staff, Board members & Artists complete online Tusla e-learning programme, Exchange of Child Protection Policies with partner organisations
2	Risk of child being harmed by staff or Artists	Recruitment policy, Garda Vetting procedure, Code of Behaviour for staff & Artists — Artists do not work alone (4.2 Good Practice)
3	Risk of child being harmed by another child in the group	Working agreement with partner organisation – Code of Behaviour for children attending the group, supervision procedures, Exchange of Child Protection Policies with partner organisations
4	Risk of harm to child through inappropriate use of images on social media platforms	Code of Behaviour for staff & artists on Image use including Image consent forms. Ensure Working agreement with partner organisation includes image use policy
5	Risk of harm to child through delay in referral to Tusla	Reporting procedures in place for staff & artists & partner organisations Designated Liaison Person identified to staff & artists TUSLA to be notified within 5-7 days

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Charity Number: CHY13686
RCN: 20043247

Common Ground CLG
receives support from
Dublin City Council &
The Arts Council
Registered address:
Goldenbridge Integrated
Services Complex
St Vincent St. West
Inchicore, Dublin 8

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 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.

5. 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 service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 28th February 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:


Siobhan Geoghegan, Director, Common Ground
Cormac Buggy, Chairperson, Common Ground



For queries, please contact Siobhan Geoghegan, siobhan@commonground.ie, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.