

# Athlone Community Training Centre

## Child Safeguarding Statement



**Name of service:** Athlone Community Training Centre

**Address:** Lyster Street, Athlone, Co Westmeath, N37C563

**Contact Details:** 090 649 2170

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

Our Mission:

*"TO RESPOND TO LOCALLY IDENTIFIED TRAINING NEEDS IN A HOLISTIC, INTEGRATED MANNER AND TO PROMOTE THE EMPOWERMENT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CLIENTS IN THE WORKFORCE & SOCIETY."*

The purpose of Athlone community Training Centre is to provide early school leavers and other disadvantaged and unemployed young people with an opportunity to avail of educational and training opportunities, in a safe environment with the aim of facilitating their social inclusion while supporting the exploration and personal development of the individual.

We are committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can learn and develop. We are committed to learner centre practice in all our work and full compliance with Children First 2015. We are committed to safeguarding all children equally from harm regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

We recognise the right of children to be protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to and have their views taken into consideration in matters that affect them.



### Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

We in Athlone Community Training Centre are committed to working in accordance with the provisions of the Children First Act 2015 and other associated legislation. We are fulfilling our statutory obligations to manage and co-ordinate the implementation of the Children First Act 2015 and, as far as is reasonably practicable, ourselves to ensuring that:

- We will fully comply with our statutory obligations as a board of management under the Children First Act, 2015
- Ensure, as far as practicable that children are safe from harm while availing of the centre's services (i.e. while attending the centre or while participating in centre activities)
- Carry out an assessment of any potential for harm to children while they are attending the centre or while they are participating in centre activities (this is known as a risk assessment)
- Prepare and display a written Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the requirements of the Act
- Appoint a "relevant person" Designated Liaison Person (DLP) as the first point of contact in respect of the centre's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Provide a copy of its Child Safeguarding Statement to members of centre personnel and, where requested to parents, members of the public and to Tulsa.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and Tulsa Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Athlone Community Training Centre has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

The Board of Directors has adopted and will implement fully the Child Protection Policy and Procedures as per Tulsa Children First guidelines and as set out in the CTC Operating Standards and the Employee handbook for Community Training Centres as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

### Definition of Harm

Under the Children First Act 2015 harm is defined as, assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child,

### 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 Tulsa'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 Tulsa;
- 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 above are detailed in the CTC Employee Handbook and supported by the CTC Operational Standards and are available on request.

### Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the service.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to mitigate identified risk
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First act 2015) of a child by a member of staff from things they have done (E.g. hurt a child) or failed to do (e.g. not report a concern)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of professional conduct</li> <li>• Recruitment selection and probation guidelines</li> <li>• Safeguarding, child protection and welfare policy</li> <li>• Operational Standards for CTCs</li> </ul>
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) caused by lack of supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of professional conduct</li> <li>• Operational Standards for CTCs</li> </ul>
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) by visitors to the service (workers, parents, work placement, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment selection and probation guidelines</li> <li>• Safeguarding, child protection and welfare policy</li> <li>• Operational Standards for CTCs</li> </ul>
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First act 2015) by another child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disciplinary Policy &amp; Procedures for staff &amp; young people</li> <li>• Equality, Dignity and Respect at work Policy</li> <li>• Code of professional conduct</li> <li>• Learner code of conduct</li> <li>• Recruitment selection and probation guidelines</li> <li>• Safeguarding, child protection and welfare policy</li> <li>• Learner Induction policy</li> </ul>
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff, volunteer, stranger, peer, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of professional conduct</li> <li>• Recruitment selection and probation guidelines</li> <li>• Safeguarding, child protection and welfare policy</li> <li>• Operational Standards for CTCs</li> </ul>
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First act 2015) through access to ICT/unauthorised photography (e.g. social media or web access, electronic contact, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of professional conduct</li> <li>• Recruitment selection and probation guidelines</li> <li>• Safeguarding, child protection and welfare policy</li> <li>• Information technology, electronic mail and internet policy</li> <li>• Policy on learner computer resources and internet usage</li> <li>• Policy on learner respect and dignity</li> </ul>
Young person alone with staff member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of professional conduct</li> <li>• Recruitment selection and probation guidelines</li> <li>• Safeguarding, child protection and welfare policy</li> </ul>
Failure to follow Child Safeguarding and welfare policy and procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of professional conduct</li> <li>• Recruitment selection and probation guidelines</li> <li>• Safeguarding, child protection and welfare policy</li> <li>• Operational Standards for CTCs</li> </ul>

### 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 every 2 years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: Colin Flanagan  
 Acting Manager & DDLP, Athlone Community Training Centre

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: Andrew Haran  
 Chairperson, Athlone Community Training Centre

**Review Date;** May 2025

For queries, please contact Rory Gallagher, (0906492170) DLP & Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015