

A.S.S.C

Accompaniment Support Services for Children

Safeguarding Statement



Lynette Bradshaw, Grace Jordan & Eve Farrelly

A.S.S.C - Accompaniment Support Services for Children

Child Safeguarding Statement

A.S.S.C. is a voluntary organisation providing specialised accompaniment, advocacy and support for all young people and their families as they negotiate the Criminal Justice System.

A.S.S.C. is committed to protecting young people from harm. Management and volunteers in this organisation recognise that the welfare of young people is paramount. A.S.S.C. will endeavour to safeguard young people. A.S.S.C. aims to create a safe and healthy environment for the young people with whom we work, and we are always committed to ensure the safety and welfare of them. A.S.S.C. works within the National Children's First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children. A.S.S.C. deems in advocating the general welfare, health, development, and safety of children. The welfare of children is of paramount importance.

Director of Services	Grace Jordan
Executive Director	Lynette Bradshaw
Garda Vetting Officer	Grace Jordan
DLP	Lynette Bradshaw

Procedures

A.S.S.C. 's 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 services.

A.S.S.C. 's Child Protection Policies include:

- Staff and volunteer training
- Confidentiality
- Record keeping
- Working in partnership
- Definition and recognition of child abuse
- Reporting child abuse concerns to the Designated Person
- Reporting suspected child abuse to the statutory authorities
- Allegations of child abuse against employees or volunteers' additional procedures
- Comments, compliments, and complaints other than allegations of abuse
- Accident and incidents
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- A clear reporting procedure to respond to concerns around children's welfare and

safety.

- A code of behaviour for staff and volunteers.
- A procedure to respond to accidents
- A procedure to respond to complaints
- Have a Designated Liaison Person
- Provide induction training around A.S.S.C. 's child protection policy
- Provide supervision and support for staff and volunteers in contact with children
- Share information about the child protection policy and good practices with families and children
- Reviewing A.S.S.C. 's child protection policy and practices on a regular basis

All A.S.S.C policies are available upon request.

Risk assessment

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

	Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk Identified
1.	Allegation of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service	A.S.S.C Policy Document clearly outlines the procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service.
2.	Recruitment	A.S.S.C Policy Document outlines the procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers. A.S.S.C practice was amended to comply with the provisions of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012-2016. All A.S.S.C staff, volunteers and Board members are Garda Vetted. All appointments or contracts of employment with A.S.S.C are offered subject to Garda Vetting. Employment will not commence until the vetting process has been completed. A.S.S.C is in full compliance with the requirements of this act.

<p>3.</p>	<p>Child Protection Training:</p>	<p>A.S.S.C provides ongoing child protection training to all staff and volunteers to raise awareness within the organisation about potential risks to children’s safety and welfare. All staff, volunteers, board members and fundraisers are made aware of their duty to report concerns or disclosures of abuse that they receive in the course of their duties to A.S.S.C’s Designated Liaison Person.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Reporting Child Protection Concerns from staff/volunteers:</p>	<p>A.S.S.C Relevant Person is appointed by the Board of Trustees. The roles and responsibilities of the Relevant/Designated Liaison Person are outlined in the roles section of A.S.S.C Policy Document. The Reporting Child Protection Concerns Form for all A.S.S.C Staff and Volunteers in the forms section of the A.S.S.C Policy Document needs to be completed by the staff member. Failure to do so is a failure in duty to care and can lead to disciplinary action. If the Designated Liaison Person is unavailable the deputy Designated Liaison Person can be contacted. The Designated Liaison Person acts as a resource person to staff members who have any child protection concerns. As defined in the Children First Act 2015, mandated persons have a statutory obligation to report concerns which reach a particular threshold to TUSLA. All A.S.S.C procedures and policies are available. As accompaniment is on a 24-hour rota for the hospital units. Volunteers has access to Line manager contact number during this period. If it is needed.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Reporting Child Protection Concerns to TUSLA</p>	<p>The Designated Liaison Person name and contact details will be displayed in all relevant areas of A.S.S.C website (when it is launched). The Designated Liaison Person acts as a liaison person with outside agencies and as a resource person to staff members or volunteers who have any child protection concerns. A.S.S.C Policy Document clearly outlines these procedures. The Child Safeguarding Statement is provided to all staff, volunteers or any other persons involved with the service. The Child Safeguarding Statement will also be published on A.S.S.C website (when it is launched). The Child protection Statement and A.S.S.C policies are available to parents, guardians on request and a copy of these will be made available to TUSLA on request.</p>

6.	Confidentiality	<p>All A.S.S.C staff, volunteers, board members and fundraisers are required to sign a confidentiality agreement which can be found in the forms section of the A.S.S.C Policy Document. A.S.S.C respects the client's right to privacy and anonymity. Clients and families are provided with a confidentiality form explaining the limits to confidentiality. Any research or evaluation cannot be done without clients' consent.</p>
7.	Record Keeping:	<p>A.S.S.C has clear procedures in relation to record-keeping of all child protection and welfare concerns. These are outlined in the A.S.S.C Policy Document. All records in relation to children at risk are standardized throughout A.S.S.C. Accompaniment notes are all kept securely. A.S.S.C.'s full policy on record keeping is outlined in the Record Keeping Section in the A.S.S.C Policy Document. All records are kept securely.</p>
8.	Working Partnership/Joint Working:	<p>in A.S.S.C.'s policy is co-operation with TUSLA Child and Family Agency on the sharing of their records where a child welfare or protection issue arises.</p> <p>A.S.S.C seeks to work in partnership with any other agency/service when such a liaison will benefit the child and their family. This includes statutory and non-statutory services. A.S.S.C is committed to sharing information in relation to child protection with TUSLA Child and Family Agency and staff are available to liaise in the best interest of the child. A.S.S.C will share what is necessary and proportionate in the circumstances of each individual case. This is in keeping with the principles of Data Protection which recognise that in certain circumstances information can be shared in the interest of child protection.</p>
9.	Physical injury to a child	<p>Children always remain under adult supervision during A.S.S.C service provision. The procedures for dealing with any accident or injury to a child are outlined in the A.S.S.C Policy Document.</p>

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 service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed at year end 2021; or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Relevant Person

Lynette Bradshaw.

Executive Director & DLP

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Coolock,

Dublin 17.

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Signed: _____

Lynette Bradshaw, Executive Director A.S.S.C.