

## Smithstown Lodge: Child Safeguarding Statement

### 1. RAINBOW COMMUNITY SERVICES – SMITHSTOWN LODGE

Rainbow Community Services is a private organisation that was established in 2005. Our ethos of care is underpinned by the core values of respect for our clients, partnership, empowerment, holistic development and solution focused interventions. We aim to provide our clients with an effective continuum of professional care that is focused on meeting their needs in a multiplicity of key life areas.

Smithstown Lodge is a mainstream residential home in Julianstown, Co. Meath for adolescents, both male and female, aged 12-18 years of age. It can accommodate up to four young people at any one time. The management and staff at Smithstown Lodge endeavour to provide a high standard of care to each young person in an open, trusting, safe and caring environment which promotes individual growth through learning and positive life experiences. In this process, we respect the rights and choices of each young person and work to their best interests at all times.

### 2. PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

The management and staff team in Smithstown Lodge are committed to the safeguarding of children through the following processes:

- Comprehensive recruitment and vetting of all staff employed by the company.
- All staff have received up to date Child Protection training.
- All Staff are TCI trained to allow us to manage challenging behaviours.
- Safety management policies are in place as per our policies and procedures.

### 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, available on request.

<b>RISK</b>	<b>PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK</b>
Bullying	Staff have completed anti-bullying training. This risk would be managed as per our anti-bullying policy.
Child harmed by visitor to the centre	Child Safeguarding Policy; No visitor is to be left alone with a child at any stage.
Child harmed by member of staff	Lone working policy; child protection policy; all staff are Garda vetted. Adequate staff ratio.
Child subject to harm from other child in our service	Adequate staff ratio; anti-bullying policy, care plans, placement plans as to identify needs. Clear communication with social workers and guardians.
Risk of sexual abuse or abduction in relation to family access	Child protection policy; child protection reporting procedures as per Children First National Guidelines. Garda involvement and TUSLA involvement.
Child harmed via internet access/activities	Online Safety Policy.

#### **4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND 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 in respect of any member of staff/volunteer who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect 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/policies listed are available on request.

#### **5. IMPLEMENTATION**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the Implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This statement will be reviewed on the 07/05/2021 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

This statement has been published on the service website and is displayed in a prominent place on the premises.

It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request.

A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and members of the public if requested.

Signed: Grace Madzikanda

Date: 07/05/2019

For further information on this statement, contact Relevant Person:

Grace Madzikanda, Manager, Smithstown Lodge, 0419811956