



## **INNOVATE DUBLIN COMMUNITIES CLG (Innovate Dublin)**

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Innovate Dublin is a social enterprise and we believe that real change comes through social innovation, new ideas that work. We help local communities by targeting the challenges they face and work with them to develop solutions.

To do this we listen and work with residents, businesses, non-profits and third level and provide a supportive environment for the piloting of new social, economic projects and innovations, with a particular focus on generating employment. We work across four themes: youth, place, culture and business.

We are committed to safeguarding the well-being of children and young people who are participating in Innovate Dublin programmes and events run at our Social Innovation Hubs and at off-site locations. Our aim is to create a safe, creative and enjoyable environment where children of all abilities can participate in our training programmes/workshops and where their protection and welfare is paramount.

Everyone working with children has a responsibility for their well-being and protection, including those working as staff members, consultants at Innovate Dublin. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that the young people we work with are encouraged and helped in their creative work and that this should take place in a safe and protected environment. Currently there are no volunteers working at Innovate Dublin. Any future Volunteer would have the same responsibilities and receive the same training as paid staff.

Innovate Dublin recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their safety and wellbeing, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. All staff 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.

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 Innovate Dublin has agreed the Children Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Fiona Descoteaux, CEO. Telephone 087 1947757. Email: [fiona@innovatedublin.org](mailto:fiona@innovatedublin.org)
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP): is Annabelle Conway (Social Innovation Manager). Telephone: 087 2394053. Email: [annabelle@innovatedublin.org](mailto:annabelle@innovatedublin.org)
3. The Board of Innovate Dublin recognises that Child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of community life and must be reflected in its policies, procedures, practices and activities. Innovate Dublin will adhere to the following principles of best practice in Child protection and welfare:

We will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- Fully comply with statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.



- Always recognise that all children, young people and vulnerable adults have an equal right to attend a programme that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their full potential.
- 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.
- Recognise that our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with Child protection matters.

4. The following procedures/measures are in place:

In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children , Innovate Dublin 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 who work directly with children are vetted in advance of starting their work in Innovate Dublin. Garda Vetting is carried out on our behalf via Dublin City Volunteer Ireland. Unit 4 Whitefriars, Aungier Street, Dublin 2.

- 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 Children First Act 2015) Innovate Dublin will:
- Provide each member of staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy and Procedures.
- Ensure that all new staff are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy and Procedures.
- Ensure every staff member completes certified Tusla Children First training.
- Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training and Innovate Dublin will maintain records of all staff and Board member training.
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. All Innovate Dublin staff are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First Guidelines. For mandated staff they have to report concerns to Tusla either on their own or with the DLP – Fiona Descoteaux, or Annabelle Conway – Deputy DLP
- In Innovate Dublin, the Board has appointed the above named DLP 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 Innovate Dublin or any of its services. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the centre’s 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 was adopted by the Board of Innovate Dublin Communities CLG on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019.



## Appendix 1

### Written Risk Assessment of Innovate Dublin in relation to Child Safeguarding Statement

Youth Programmes. (Currently, participants in Innovate Dublin Youth Programmes come from Youthreach and local schools Transition Year Programme). Amplify Programme participants are aged 16 -25 years. Participants from local schools are accompanied by their school teacher and tutor at all times. Activities take place in Innovate Dublin's offices, Youthreach centre and local Schools.

- Social Innovation Hub (Innovate Dublin offices) based Group Activities — supervised by participants' school teachers, Youthreach staff and attended by Innovate Dublin staff.
- School based Group Activities — supervised by participants' school teachers, tutors and Youthreach staff and attended by Innovate Dublin staff.
- Educational trips to locations in Dublin and visits to themed centres in other cities in Ireland such as Belfast accompanied by participants' teachers, tutors, Youthreach staff and Innovate Dublin staff.

#### 1. The project has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

- Risk of harm to the child being harmed by another child
- Risk of harm to the child being harmed by a member of staff within Innovate Dublin
- Risk of harm to the child being harmed by a teacher, tutor or member of Youthreach staff within Innovate Dublin
- Risk of harm to the child from a family member/ guardian
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of a child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship with a child
- Risk of harm caused by a member of staff communicating in an inappropriate manner on social media
- Risk associated with activities, outings, trips
- Risk of harm to the child out of their chosen lifestyle/behaviour choices

#### 3. The project has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment —

- All staff are provided with a copy of the Innovate Dublin Child Safeguarding Statement and Child and Adult Protection Policy and Procedures.
- All staff will be trained in Children First, Child safeguarding awareness training and matters relating Child Protection. Recruitment procedure includes Garda vetting in line with the National Vetting Bureau (Child and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.
- Innovate Dublin will participate in programmes at external locations with and/or partner organisations with due regard to child and vulnerable adult safeguarding.
- References are checked for all personnel in advance of commencement.



In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to Innovate Dublin and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, Innovate Dublin has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the CEO on behalf of the Board in July 2019 and shall be reviewed as part of Innovate Dublin's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.