

Child Safeguarding Statement Of

Brokentalkers

January 2021

Name of Service Being Provided: Theatre & Workshops

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

We create theatre that may be suitable for young people that tours to venues throughout the Republic of Ireland and internationally. In exceptional circumstances this work may be presented in non-theatre settings including schools, community centres and rehearsal rooms. We also create and run workshops for young people, some of which are stand-alone workshops engaging with local communities and schools, others are in response to performances they have seen.

Brokentalkers is committed to the wellbeing of all young people who interact with and our involved in our work. We undertake to provide a safe and positive environment, with young persons welfare of the utmost importance.

We will adhere to the *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*.

We have carefully created policies and procedures to ensure this is central to all of Brokentalkers' work and interactions with children. This policy is relevant to all adults who are involved in the creation and delivery of Brokentalkers' work with young people.

Parents and guardians will be informed of relevant policies and procedures.

- All Brokentalkers regular artists/ facilitators working with children are Garda Vetted.
- All Brokentalkers personnel have undertaken Tulsa online Child Protection Training- *Children First E-Learning*.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tulsa in a timely manner.

Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm¹ to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	Harm not being recognised by Brokentalkers personnel	All staff, volunteers and associates are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to relevant producer. The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.
2	Harm not being reported properly and promptly by Brokentalkers personnel	All relevant personnel are informed of procedures for promptly reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tulsa.

¹ Section 2 of the *Children First Act 2015* defines harm as follows: 'harm means in relation to a child-

- a) 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,
- b) Sexual abuse of the child'

3	Young person being harmed by Brokentalkers personnel	Procedure for safe recruitment and selection of team to work with children including procedure for Garda Vetting. Code of Behaviour
4	Harm due to inadequate supervision of young people	Code of Behaviour
5	Harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people	Social Media Policy
6	Child makes disclosure to member of Brokentalkers' team	All personnel working with children are informed of procedure to make a referral to Tulsa
	Suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of Brokentalkers' team	All personnel working with children are informed of procedure to make a referral of Tulsa

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, the *Children First: National Guidance*, 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/ young person availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children (Child Protection Policy)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tulsa (Child Protection Policy)
- Health and Safety Policy
- 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.

Our Designated Liaison person is: Rachel Bergin (Creative Producer)

Our Relevant Person is: Rachel Bergin (mail@brokentalkers.ie)

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 in January 2023, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Rachel Bergin
On Behalf of Brokentalkers