



Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided:

Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (hereafter 'SLÍ').

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm (*brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children*):

SLÍ is the Irish word for 'The Way' which is a really important part of our story and represents the hopes for the organisation. SLÍ provides a range of education and awareness raising programmes and resources to schools, youth groups and community organisations to raise the profile of climate action and sustainability within our community. All the work of the organisation takes place within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SLÍ works on a variety of issues that fall under this umbrella including the problems of single-use plastic, waste, fair trade, child and forced labour, ethical fashion, water, transportation, etc.

SLÍ's work can be looked at through 2 lenses:

- Learning - educational work in schools, youth organisations and communities.
- Action - the work conducted and resources circulated/developed to inspire change.

We engage with young people in a variety of different ways, the range of activities which children and young people might be involved with SLÍ include the following:

- Youth advisory groups, children/young people's forums
- Workshops
- Talks
- Once off events/activities
- Once-off consultations
- Representation of young people at national or international events; residential and trips abroad
- Representational role at meetings or committees
- Involvement at launches and events
- Communications via the internet and social media.
- Funding youth organisations/facilitators to deliver services/programmes to young people.

SLÍ is dedicated to creating a safe and healthy environment for them and strives to always ensure their safety and welfare. SLÍ is dedicated to the principle that the welfare of the child is paramount, and must always come first, and that child safeguarding and child protection is everyone's responsibility. We are also committed to promoting the rights of the child to be protected, treated with respect, be listened to, and have their views taken into consideration, including the participation of children/young people, in matters that affect them. In accordance with that belief, SLÍ has adopted the following guidelines for staff and volunteers based on the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and Túsla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy Procedure and Practice.

3. Risk Assessment



We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Online contact via email/social media etc.	<p>For all risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection policy. • Safeguarding policies include a Code of Behaviour and reporting procedure and staff/volunteers sign and commit to these. • Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and CP officer in place. • Ensure safe recruitment practices and that relevant staff/volunteers are Garda vetted. • Ensure all staff receive relevant training. • Consent Forms • GDPR Policy <p>For Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all external consultants/3rd parties are briefed on our safeguarding policies and sign/commit to these. • Inter-agency events include safeguarding in planning and communication of relevant internal policies and procedures. • There should be no physical contact between staff/volunteers and the children with whom we work. • Dealing with discipline/behavioural issues should be deferred to the teacher/group leader. <p>Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLI staff/volunteers only communicate with public via official SLI email, phone, and social media profiles; our social media has followers/likes and no access to personal information of same unless shared by them. • SLI staff/volunteers always communicate in a polite professional manner. • Social Media Policy
2	When invited to contribute to SLI events/activities (speakers, facilitators, consultations, etc.)	
3	When attending SLI public events/activities (i.e. we may not know who is a child)	
4	During outreach to external activities/events	

4. 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:



- SLI will appoint one member of staff to serve as the 'Designated Liaison Person (DLP)' to deal with any issues or complaints arising which concern the safety or welfare of any child/young person who attends/participates in SLI events/activities. The current designee is Jennifer Harris.
- 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 the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Keeping parents/guardians informed including through the use of consent forms.
- Health and Safety Policy; an anti-bullying policy; a complaints procedure.

All procedures listed are available upon request. Please see **Appendix 1** for who to contact locally for support/information or to make a report.

5. 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 in June 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (John Hawkes, SLI Board Chair)

This policy was approved by SLI's Management Committee, June 2023.
SLI, 19 Chestnut Close, Viewmount, Waterford, Ireland.

For queries, please contact Jennifer Harris, CEO, Designated Liaison Person (DLP) under the Children First Act 2015.

Appendix 1

Who to contact locally to seek advice or make a report:

Greg Mullan,
Child and Family Agency,
Community Services,
Cork Road,
Waterford.

Phone (051) 8428827 **Email** greg.mullan@tusla.ie

Túsła Waterford Dedicated Contact Point:



Child and Family Agency,
Ely House,
Ferrybank,
Co.Wexford
Phone (053) 1918201

Health Service Executive

Anne Purcell, Advice and Information Officer
HSE, S.E.A.
Castlehill
Carlow

Phone (087) 7985062

Gardaí

Waterford **Phone** (051) 305300
Dungarvan **Phone** (058) 48600