

<b>Procedure Name</b>	<b>La Leche League of Ireland Child Protection Policy</b>		
<b>Frequency of Review</b>	As soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Protection Policy refers.		
<b>Revision History</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Revision History</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>
<b>July 2009</b>	1.0	Adoption of New Child Protection Policy	Maria Lotty and the Area Council of La Leche League of Ireland
<b>February 2024</b>	1.1	Updated Child Protection Policy	Glenda Raftery Muhametaj and Lynn Carroll

# ***LA LECHE LEAGUE OF IRELAND***



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

## **February 2024**

This policy has been developed by a working group of La Leche League of Ireland, we are very grateful to these Leaders for the time, energy and expertise given to this document. The policy in accordance with the *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and the Children First Act 2015*. The policy will be updated to reflect changes in national policy and in legislation.

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## **Section 1**

### **La Leche League of Ireland Child Protection Policy Statement**

La Leche League of Ireland (LLL) is a voluntary organisation, part of La Leche League International (LLLI). LLL offers mother-to-mother support in a wide range of breastfeeding situations.

LLL recognises that the welfare of the child is of paramount importance, regardless of race, gender, class, religion or disability. The organisation accepts its responsibility to promote the general welfare, health, development and safety of children. LLL also has a moral obligation to promote the well-being of children and to safeguard them from harm, whilst recognising the rights and needs of the mother.

We are committed to developing procedures to provide specific guidance to Leaders who may have reasonable grounds for concern about the safety and welfare of children. These will be in accordance with the *Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* Department of Health and Children (2017). LLL is also committed to raising awareness within the organisation about potential risks to children's safety and welfare.

In order to ensure our organisation is making as many efforts as possible to follow guidance for the safety and welfare of children, all Leaders are asked to complete the Tusla 'Introduction to Children First' E-Learning Programme. We also ask our Leaders, although not a mandatory requirement, that Leaders be Garda Vetted.

LLL applies a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting and selecting Leaders. The process of accrediting Leaders is outlined in *The Leader's Handbook* (LLLI, 5th Revised Edition 2019-2021) and is overseen by the Leader Accreditation Department (LAD) and local Leaders.

LLL will identify and recruit a Group Leader to take on the role of Child Protection Officer (CPO). The CPO will liaise with outside agencies and be a resource to LLL Leaders who have child protection concerns. The CPO is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to TUSLA or An Garda Síochána.

## Section 2

### Definitions and Recognition of Child Abuse

All Leaders should be familiar with signs and behaviours that may be indicative of child abuse. Child abuse can be difficult to identify and may present in various forms. It is important to stress that no one indicator should be seen as conclusive in itself of abuse; it may indicate other conditions. Therefore, all signs and symptoms must be looked at in the total context of the child's situation and family circumstances.

Child abuse can be categorised into four different types: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Definitions of each type of abuse, together with signs and symptoms will be outlined below. The final part of this section deals with the recognition of abuse.

#### Definitions of Child Abuse

(ref: Children's First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children Department of Health and Children, Government Publications, 2017, Dublin)

1. Child Neglect is normally defined in terms of an *omission*, where the child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety; affection from adults or medical care.
2. Emotional Abuse is normally to be found in the *relationship* between a parent/care-giver and a child rather than in a specific event or number of events. It occurs when a child's need for affection, approval, consistency and security are not consistently met.
3. Physical Abuse is any form of non-accidental injury or injury which results from wilful or neglectful failure to protect a child.
4. Sexual Abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his/her gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others.

#### Signs and Symptoms of Child Abuse

Signs of abuse can be physical, behavioural or developmental. A cluster or pattern of signs is the most reliable indicator of abuse. The following signs and symptoms are examples of what to look for but **can** occur where abuse has not been a factor. The list is not exhaustive.

## **1. Signs and Symptoms of Child Neglect**

This is the most common form of child abuse. A distinction can be made between 'wilful' and 'circumstantial' neglect. Wilful neglect usually involves direct and deliberate deprivation by a parent/care-giver of a child's most basic needs. Examples include withdrawal of food, shelter, warmth, clothing or contact with others. Circumstantial neglect may be due to stress/inability to cope by parents/care-givers. The neglect of children is usually a passive form of abuse involving omission of care.

Child Neglect should be suspected in cases of:

- Children being persistently left alone without adequate care and supervision.
- Malnourishment, lacking food, appropriate food or erratic feeding.
- Lack of warmth
- Lack of adequate clothing
- Lack of protection and exposure to danger, including lack of supervision appropriate to the child's age
- Non-organic failure to thrive i.e. child not gaining weight due to malnutrition and/or emotional deprivation
- Failure to provide medical attention

The following behavioural signs may be observed in a child who is being neglected:

- Poor hygiene
- Untreated illness
- Lack of appropriate supervision
- Exposure to danger
- Accident prone
- Caring for younger siblings
- Situations where the child acts as parent
- Over protective
- Parent extremely controlling
- Low self-esteem in child

The following physical signs may be observed in a child who is being neglected:

- Dirty/smelly
- Hungry
- Dental issues
- Tiredness
- Inappropriate clothing
- Failure to thrive
- Lack of adequate medical attention

## **2. Signs and Symptoms of Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse occurs when adults responsible for taking care of children are unable to be aware of and meet their children's emotional and developmental needs. Emotional abuse is not easy to recognise because the effects are not easily seen. This type of abuse tends to be pervasive and persistent over time and can occur in tandem with other forms of child abuse.

Emotional abuse should be suspected in cases of:

- Persistent rejection
- Persistent lack of praise and encouragement
- Persistent lack of comfort and love
- Emotional unavailability by a child's parent/carer
- Persistent lack of proper stimulation (e.g.: fun and play)
- Extreme over- or under-protectiveness
- Use of unreasonable or overly harsh disciplinary measures
- Family conflict and/or violence
- Inappropriate expectations of a child's behaviour relative to their age and stage of development

The following behavioural signs may be observed in a child who is emotionally abused:

- Mood changes, e.g.: depression
- Failure to communicate
- Rocking and/or thumb sucking
- Poor peer relations/social isolation

The following physical signs may be observed in a child who is being emotionally abused:

- Sudden speech disorders
- Eating disorders
- Wetting or soiling
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Frequent vomiting

### **3. Signs and Symptoms of Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse is any form of non-accidental injury that causes significant harm to a child.

Unsatisfactory explanations or varying explanations for the following should arouse suspicion:

- Bruises
- Fractures
- Swollen joints
- Burns/scalds
- Cuts
- Bites
- Haemorrhages of the eye or under the skin
- Failure to thrive

Refusal to seek the appropriate medical attention should arouse suspicion. The following behaviours may be observed in a child who is being physically abused:

- Self-mutilation tendencies
- Poor concentration
- Aggressive or withdrawn
- Fear of going home
- Undue fear of adults
- Bullying/being a victim of bullying

### **4. Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her sexual gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others. Sexual abuse covers a wide variety of abusive activities.

The following physical and behavioural signs should cause concern:

- Bleeding from the vagina/anus
- Difficulty/pain in passing urine or faeces
- Itching or soreness of the genital area
- Infection caused by the abuse
- Persistent vaginal discharge or genital warts/rash
- Noticeable and uncharacteristic change of behaviour
- Hints about sexual activity
- Age inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Inappropriate seductive behaviour

- Uncharacteristic sexual play with peers/toys

The following behavioural signs and emotional problems in a young child may indicate abuse:

- Mood changes, e.g.: becoming withdrawn, fearful, acting out
- Lack of concentration
- Bedwetting/soiling
- Psychosomatic complaints, such as stomach pains or headaches
- Nightmares
- Separation anxiety
- Loss of appetite
- Isolation

All signs and symptoms need careful assessment relative to the child's circumstances. In a situation where child abuse is alleged to have been carried out by another child, the child protection procedures should be adhered to for both the victim and the alleged abuser. That is it should be considered a child care and protection issue for both children.

As per the **addendum in 2019 to the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children** it will include Online Safety. LLL of Ireland will reference to the need to consider online safety in the context of any risk assessments.

We will ensure that children and young people are kept safe from harm while using the services of our organisation. As per our Waiver which includes room rules shared with parents and guardians of children attending our activity rooms during our annual Conference, the use of electronic devices such as phones, guidance is given and request for following any guidance parents/ guardians give via a consent form prior to attending. Children will be supported and encouraged to develop safe and responsible online behaviours if provided. We will ensure that the risk is identified and that appropriate policies and procedures that are in place to manage the risk are set out in the Child Protection Policy.

## Recognition of Child Abuse

Guidelines for Recognising Child Abuse are provided below. The ability to recognise child abuse depends on a willingness to accept the possibility of its existence as well as on knowledge and information.

There are a number of points to remember in the recognition of child abuse:

- The severity of a sign does not necessarily equate with the severity of the abuse. Serious injuries are not always visible. Emotional and/or psychological abuse tends to be cumulative and effects may only be seen in the longer term. Signs or indicators of abuse should be explored with the child. Explanations which are inconsistent with the signs should constitute a cause for concern.
- Neglect is as potentially dangerous as physical abuse. It can cause delayed physical, psychological and emotional development, chronic ill-health and significant long-term damage. It may also precede or co-exist with, other forms of abuse and must be treated seriously.
- Child abuse is not restricted to any socio-economic group, gender or culture.
- Challenging behaviour by a child should not leave the child vulnerable to harsh disciplinary measures or neglect of care.
- It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between indicators of child abuse and others adversities suffered by children and families. Deprivation, stress, or mental health problems should not be used as a justification for abuse or neglect. The child's welfare must be the primary concern.

There are normally three stages in the identification of child abuse. These are: STAGE 1: CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY

The possibility that a child is being abused could be considered in a situation where a child appears to have suffered an inexplicable and suspicious looking injury, seems distressed without obvious reasons, displays unusual behavioural problems or appears fearful in the company of its parents/carers.

#### STAGE 2: OBSERVING THE SIGNS OF ABUSE

Signs of abuse can be physical, behavioural and/or developmental. They can exist in relationships between children and parents/carers or between children and other family members. A cluster or pattern of signs is the most reliable indicator of child abuse.

Children may make direct disclosures or hint that they are being harmed. Disclosures should always be taken seriously. Less obvious disclosures can be gently explored with a child, without direct questioning. Play situations, for example, drawing or storytelling may reveal further significant information. Signs of abuse tend to be non specific and **must** be considered in the child's social and family context. It is always important to keep an open mind and be open to alternative explanations.

#### STAGE 3: RECORDING OF INFORMATION

If abuse is suspected, it is important to establish the grounds for concern by obtaining as much information as possible. Observations should be accurately recorded and should include dates, times, names, locations, context and any other relevant information.

### **Section 3 Responsibilities of LLL Group Leaders**

- The accreditation of LLL Group Leaders follows criteria and training established by LLLI.
- Each Group Leader needs to be aware of and familiar with the Child Protection Procedures adopted by LLL in accordance with *Children First National Guidelines*; and will retain a copy of this document.
- A Leader has a duty of care to mothers and babies attending meetings. In other words, it is the Leader's responsibility to foster an open, warm, welcoming atmosphere at meetings, such that mothers feel safe and able to speak about issues regarding breastfeeding and parenting. However, this responsibility also involves creating a safe environment for mothers and children such that they are not exposed to harm.
- A Leader will maintain appropriate professional boundaries in the relationships that they have with mothers and babies. Appropriate behavioural guidelines are set out in the Leader's Handbook (The Leader's Handbook, 5th Revised Edition 2019-2021) and in a handout distributed by LLL (Guidelines for Leaders, 2006). These document the types of behaviours that are appropriate in a helping situation, either at a meeting, on a telephone call or during a home visit.
- Leaders are asked to complete the Tusla E-Learning Programme and Garda Vetting (on-going)
- As part of ensuring all Leaders are as up to date as possible, prior to Annual Conferences any Leaders who are in a supervising of children role are asked to familiarise themselves with the waiver signed by all parents/guardians of children attending the activity rooms which includes activity rooms rules for example on appropriate behaviour, electronic device use and direction on appropriate responses by Leaders.
- Guidelines for Leaders are also given if Leaders are in a supervision role at Annual Conferences and all Leaders in such roles are asked prior to the Annual Conference to confirm all training requirements are completed via a jot form.
- Leaders would encourage all children to be respectful and considerate of one another. Where aggressive behaviour such as pushing, hitting, bullying and bad language will not be permitted. Where a child continues with such aggressive behaviour calming time away from meeting may be required and the Leader will speak to the parent/ guardian. Support the

parent/ guardian and inform them that their child may return later when they can join the other children and take part in a happy and calm manner.

- Leaders to be aware of the use of photography, phones, social media or any other electronic devices during meetings, to ensure to the best of their abilities, that children are not exposed to inappropriate materials. Parents/ guardians can be asked not to use any such device or that their children not use any such device. Important to share that in the event of use of such devices outside of the meeting room, LLL are not responsible.
- If visiting a mother alone, a Leader should not place oneself in a position of vulnerability, for example, spending long periods alone with child/children. The section entitled, “Making Home Visits” in the Leaders’ Handbook (5th Revised Edition 2019-2021) can be referred to.
- As a voluntary organisation, LLL has a responsibility to report any allegation or suspicion of child abuse. A Group Leader who has Child Protection concerns may discuss these concerns in a confidential manner with the CPO for guidance and support. At all times confidentiality should be respected.

## Section 4 Reporting of Concerns

### Response to a Disclosure of Child Abuse

A Leader within LLL will be nominated as the (Child Protection Officer) CPO. This Leader will have particular expertise or training in the area of Child Protection. The CPO will act as a resource person for Leaders who have Child Protection concerns. The CPO will also act as a liaison between LLL and outside agencies, such as the TUSLA. The CPO might be a member of the Area Council and will keep the Area Co-Coordinator of Leaders (ACL) informed of all actions undertaken by a Leader in the course of her duties. The CPO will keep all records forwarded to them in a safe and confidential place. All records sent to the CPO are confidential.

The CPO might head up a Child Protection Committee within LLL. This panel could comprise of up to 3 Leaders with Child Protection Expertise who would meet to discuss the appropriate manner of dealing with particular situations as they arise. This would facilitate best practice and help manage the stress and responsibility of such a post.

The CPO will be responsible for record keeping of all training requirements of Leaders, documentation and a record of any mandated persons in a confidential and appropriate manner.

It would best practice to have a second person to assist the CPO and appropriate cover if the CPO is not available for example due to illness, on leave or holidays. A decision on this would be done by the Area Council and the CPO would work closely with them on this.

If child abuse is suspected:

- it is essential to have a written record of all information available
- The Leader should note carefully what they have observed and when it was observed. Signs of physical injury should be described in detail and sketched where appropriate. Any comment made by the child concerned or by any other person about how an injury occurred should be recorded, preferably quoting words and actual comments contemporaneously
- The record should be signed, dated and given to the CPO (see summary of *Action to be taken by Leaders* below).

It is really important to remember that it is not the responsibility of the Leader to investigate or to make enquiries of the mother. In some cases it could be counter productive to do so. It is a matter for TUSLA to investigate suspected abuse and to determine future action. It is also not appropriate to make promises, such as, keeping 'secret' or confidential the information given. Any emotions expressed by the informant can be validated without judging or questioning (see summary of *Action to be taken by Leaders* below).

In case of emergency where a child appears to be in immediate and serious danger; where it is not possible to make contact with the LLL CPO or the TUSLA Duty Social Worker, An Garda Síochána should be contacted immediately. Under no circumstances should a child be left in a dangerous situation pending TUSLA intervention.

### **Action to be Taken by Leaders**

If any of the following situations arise, the matter should be immediately reported to the CPO:

- An allegation is received
- There are suspicions that a child is being abused
- There are suspicions that a child is at-risk of being abused

In a situation where a disclosure is made to a Leader:

#### **Do:**

- Try to keep calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure the child that it is right to tell.
- Only ask questions for clarification.
- Keep written notes of all that is said.
- Do write any direct speech, where possible and the demeanour of the person.
- Sign and date the record.
- Maintain communication with the mother, where possible and appropriate.
- Report the matter to the CPO.

#### **Don't:**

- Don't promise to keep the information secret.
- Don't ask leading questions or seek further details beyond those volunteered.
- Don't express any judgemental opinion about the matter.
- Don't investigate.

The CPO is to be contacted with all concerns about child protection issues. They can guide and support the Group Leader in the best approach to the situation at hand. A written record should be made of the expressed concerns and placed in a secure location by the CPO.

### **Action to be taken by the Child Protection Officer (CPO)**

If the CPO is concerned about a situation and believes that there are reasonable grounds for the suspicion or allegation:

\* They should report the matter to TUSLA immediately. If deemed appropriate, a report should be made to TUSLA either in person, by phone or in writing to the Duty Social Worker of the local area where the child is normally resident. In the event of an emergency or the non-availability of TUSLA staff, the report should be made to An Garda Síochána at a Garda Station.

\* In cases where the CPO has concerns about a child but is not sure whether to report the matter to TUSLA, they should seek advice from the Duty Social Worker in TUSLA. IF TUSLA advises that a referral should be made, then the CPO should act on that advice.

\* In those cases where LLL decides that it should not refer concerns to TUSLA or An Garda Síochána, the Leader who raised the concern should be given a clear written statement of the reasons why action is not being taken. The Leader should be advised that should they continue to have concerns in relation to the situation, and should they feel dissatisfied with the course of action taken by LLL, that they may decide to proceed with reporting the matter herself to TUSLA or an Garda Síochána. A report made in this way would be covered under the Protection of Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, once a person makes a report “reasonably and in good faith”.

\*The CPO should inform the mother they are submitting a report to TUSLA or An Garda Síochána, unless doing so is likely to endanger the child or place the child at further risk. A decision not to inform the Mother should be recorded together with the reasons for not doing so. All communications with the mother should be recorded.

\*It is essential that at all time the matter be treated in the strictest confidence and not discussed except among the parties mentioned above.

TUSLA is obliged to treat seriously all child protection concerns, whatever their source, and consider carefully and fairly the nature of the information reported. Whatever response is considered most appropriate, a balance needs to be struck between protecting the child and avoiding unnecessary and distressing intervention.

TUSLA’s response must consider the protection of the child a priority while trying to avoid actions which might cause the child or family undue distress. All efforts are made to respect the rights of parents/carers and children to have their views heard and to be fully informed of any steps taken.

LLL support can continue to be available to mother and baby should they wish to avail of this.

**Note:** The Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act (1998) makes provision for the protection from civil liability of persons who have reported child abuse, “reasonably and in good faith”. This protection applies to organisations and individuals. It is considered therefore that, in the first instance, it is organisations which employ staff or use volunteers who should assume responsibility for reporting child abuse to the appropriate authorities. Reports to TUSLA and An Garda Síochána should be made by the CPO, following the standard reporting procedure as outlined in Section 4 of this document. Each organisation should ensure that reports are passed on as quickly as possible to the statutory authorities.

## **Section 5**

### **Where an Allegation of Abuse is made against a Group Leader**

LLL will give due regard to the rights and interests of the child on the one hand and those of the Leader against whom the allegation is made on the other hand. LLL has a dual responsibility in respect of both child and the Leader to have agreed procedures to address situations where allegations of child abuse are made against a Leader.

- It is important to remember there are two procedures to be followed here: (i) the reporting procedure in respect of the child and (ii) the procedure for dealing with the Leader.
- The CPO will remain the Leader responsible for dealing with the situation in respect of the child and will follow agreed procedures as outlined in section 4.
- It is not appropriate for the CPO to also deal with the situation in respect of the Leader against whom an allegation has been made. The Area Coordinator of Leaders (ACL) together with the Area Council of La Leche League of Ireland will be responsible for dealing with any allegations of abuse made against a Leader. They will ensure that the reporting procedure below will be adhered to.
- Leaders may be subjected to erroneous or malicious allegations. Therefore any allegation of abuse should be dealt with sensitively and support provided for the Leader including counselling where necessary. However, the primary goal is to protect the child while also taking care of the Leader.

### **Reporting Procedure**

- Should a Leader receive an allegation of abuse against another Leader, they must report the matter to the ACL immediately and the ACL will notify the Area Council of La Leche League of Ireland. They should provide a written record of the allegations made.
- Where the ACL becomes aware of an allegation of abuse of a child or children by a Leader during the course of their duties, they should privately inform the Leader of the following: (i) the fact that an allegation has been made against them and (ii) the nature of the allegation. The Leader should be afforded an opportunity to respond.

- The ACL together with the Area Council of La Leche League of Ireland will note the response and initially assess, in a prompt and careful manner, to determine if a formal report should be made to TUSLA. This decision should be based on reasonable grounds for concern.
- This process will occur in tandem with the work of the CPO, ACL and the Area Council. The CPO, the ACL and the Area Council of La Leche League of Ireland will liaise and co-operate during the period of any initial assessment of allegations made against a Leader.
- The first priority should be to ensure that no child is exposed to unnecessary risk. LLL will as a matter of urgency take any necessary protective measures. Such protective measures are likely to involve the temporary suspension of that Leader from Group Leader duties. Any such temporary suspension is made in good faith and without prejudice and will be for the period of the initial investigation by the ACL and CPO and/or any subsequent TUSLA investigation.
- Once a formal report has been made to TUSLA in relation to an allegation of abuse by a Group Leader, LLL will endeavour to maintain a close liaison with TUSLA and An Garda Síochána. The ACL should suggest an immediate meeting with these two agencies for this purpose. The ACL and CPO will represent LLL and report back to the Area Council of La Leche League of Ireland. Such liaison will also ensure any action taken does not undermine or frustrate any investigations being conducted.
- The ACL should seek feedback from TUSLA and/or an Garda Síochána about the progress and/or outcome of any child abuse investigation involving a Leader and report back to the Area Council of La Leche League of Ireland currently.
- Subsequent to the outcome of the investigation, the temporary suspension of the Group Leader may be lifted. Alternatively, the ACL, in consultation with the Area Council, may decide about the appropriate future position of the Leader within the organisation. The ACL will advise the Leader accordingly.
- In the case where TUSLA receives an allegation made against a Leader, TUSLA must contact LLL immediately. The ACL is the appropriate person to liaise with TUSLA and to keep the Area Council of La Leche League of

Ireland informed currently in such circumstances.

## **Appendix A**

### **References**

1. Children's First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children  
Department of Health and Children, Government Publications, 2017, Dublin.
2. The Leader's Handbook, La Leche League International, Schaumburg, Illinois,  
Fifth Revised Edition, 2019-2021.
3. Guidelines for Leaders, La Leche League of Ireland Pamphlet, 2006
4. Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, Government Publications, 1998
5. Addendum in 2019 to the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and  
Welfare of Children in include Online Safety
- 6.. Child Protection Officer: Glenda Raftery-Muhametaj (January 2024 - present)

Email: [cpo@lalecheleagueireland.com](mailto:cpo@lalecheleagueireland.com)

## Appendix B

### La Leche League of Ireland Child Protection Internal

### Reporting Form



*La Leche League of Ireland*  
*Breastfeeding Help & Information*

### La Leche League of Ireland Child Protection Internal Reporting Form\*

Date Time

Name of person reporting

Group County

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child

Details of incident

Details of witnesses

Any action taken

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*This form should be completed with as much detail as possible and returned marked 'confidential' to the Child Protection Officer

La Leche League of Ireland and a copy of this form to be sent to the ACL of La Leche League of Ireland.

## Appendix C

### **Procedures from LLL of Ireland Child Protection Policy, available on request as per Child Safeguarding Statement**

**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 for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against Leaders/volunteers of a child availing of our service (*Section 5 of CPP: Reporting and Supervision*)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children (*Sections 2 and 3 of CPP: Training and Recruitment*)
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (*Sections 2 and 3 of CPP: Training and Recruitment*)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla (*Section 4 of CPP: Reporting and Supervision*)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons (*Section 4 of CPP: Reporting and Supervision*)
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person (*Section 4 of CPP: Reporting and Supervision*)