



Waterford Sports Partnership Child Safeguarding Statement

LSP information

Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP) develops, supports and provides opportunities for children to participate in sport and physical activity programmes and events in Waterford. WSP has two offices based in Dungarvan and Waterford City and has ten staff.

WSP believes that the best interests of children attending our activities are of paramount importance. We believe that all children attending our activities have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in decisions affecting them.

Principles to safeguard children from harm

WSP is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies our staff, service providers and partners, working with children, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for children to participate in sport and physical activity. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- Importance of childhood - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.
- Needs of the child - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- Integrity in relationships - Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- Fair Play - All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- Quality atmosphere & ethos - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- Competition - Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- Equality - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Risk Assessment

The WSP written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. Below is a summary of our risk assessment which indicated areas of potential harm and policy/procedures in place to mitigate these risks. This Risk Assessment was undertaken on 31/3/23.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p>Activity Delivery Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of suitable coaching/sports/fitness related qualification and/or experience • Supervision issues (of tutor/staff/leader) • Unauthorised photography, social media & recording activities • Behavioural Issues (of tutor/staff/leader) • Lack of gender consideration re activity delivery • No guidance for travelling & away trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Child Safeguarding Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe recruitment procedures - Code of Conduct - Photography, use of images & social media policy - Travel/Away trip policy • WSP Employee Contracts and Handbook - recruitment policy, disciplinary policy, employee contracts, reporting / supervision • Service Provider and Partner Contracts/Agreements • Volunteer policy • Staff/Sports Leader training & education including Safeguarding 1
<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy • Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Complaints Policy • WSP Child Safeguarding Policy • WSP Employee Handbook • WSP Safeguarding Committee Terms of Reference
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures • No Mandated person appointed • No DSLP appointed • Concerns of abuse or harm not reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Child Safeguarding Policy • Staff/Sports Leader training & education including Safeguarding 1 • Name and role of DLP and Mandated person available on website
<p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsupervised children • Concerns over safeguarding procedures of facilities used by WSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Child Safeguarding Policy
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity on roles • Garda Vetting not completed • Unqualified or untrained people in role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Child Safeguarding Policy • WSP Employee Handbook • WSP Garda Vetting Policy
<p>Communications and Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of Child Safeguarding Policy by children, their guardians and Sports Leaders • No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Conduct to children, their guardians and Sports Leaders • Unauthorised photography, social media & recording of activities • Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Child Safeguarding Statement • WSP Child Safeguarding Policy - Photography, use of images & social media policy • WSP Code of Conduct

<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm not being recognised • Harm caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child to Child - Coach to Child - Volunteer to Child - Visitor to Child • Issues of Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Child Safeguarding Policy - Categories and Signs of Abuse • WSP Code of Conduct • Staff/Sports Leader training & education including Safeguarding 1
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Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

WSP has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or Sports Leaders against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and Sports Leaders to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Mandated Person for WSP is Rosarie Kealy who can be contacted for further information on this statement at 087 7576579 or rkealy@waterfordsportspartnership.ie.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. WSP 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 activities.

This statement is published on the WSP website; is displayed on the WSP premises, has been provided to all staff and is readily available on request. This statement will be reviewed on or before the 31/3/25.

Signed: _____

Date: ___ 31/3/23 _____

WSP Chairperson

Signed: _____

Date: ___ 31/3/23 _____

WSP Mandated Person

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Rosarie Kealy at 087 7576579 or rkealy@waterfordsportspartnership.ie.