



Comhairle Contae **LÚ**
Louth County Council

Louth County Council

Subsidiary Service Specific Child Safeguarding Statement

Recreation Services

Sports Facilities and Activities (Council Managed)

**To be read in conjunction with the Louth County Council
Corporate Child Safeguarding Certificate.**

Subsidiary Service Specific Child Safeguarding Statement

This statement sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child availing of Louth County Council Sports Unit services are safe from harm.

Relevant Services Provided

Louth County Council considers that we are a relevant service, under the Act.

1. **Name of service being provided:** Sports activities and provision of sports facilities under the remit of Louth Sports Unit, including Dundalk Sports Centre, Lourdes Stadium and Drogheda Community Centre (formerly Coca Cola Hall).
2. **Nature of service:** Sport and Leisure
3. **Principles to safeguard children from harm:** Louth County Council is committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and with the delivery of all our services and activities. The Local Authority has an overall corporate duty and responsibility to safeguard all children accessing any Local Authority service or activity.

Louth County Council is committed to;

- Promoting general welfare, health development and safety of children;
- Ensuring safe management procedures are in place for all staff and volunteers including: robust recruitment, selection, supervision and support procedures;
- Developing guidance and procedures for staff and volunteers who may have reasonable grounds for concern about the possible abuse or neglect of a child involved in the services or activities of the Local Authority;
- Ensuring Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers are appointed and accessible;
- Ensuring that the Local Authority has procedures in place to deal with an allegation of abuse made against an employee/volunteer;
- Raising awareness in the organisation about potential risks to children's safety/welfare;
- Developing procedures for responding to accidents and complaints;
- Developing and maintaining clear record keeping procedures;
- Ensuring a Code of Behaviour is in place to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children and young people in the organisation;
- Developing a policy of inter-agency cooperation with Tulsa and other agencies involved in the protection of a child.

Policy Statement

Louth Sports Unit is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of the public that uses its facilities and partakes in the units organised activities. Every individual availing of these services should at all times, show respect and understanding for customer rights, safety and welfare. They should conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in Louth County Council's Child Safeguarding Guidelines and Sport Ireland's Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.

As a service operated by Louth County Council, Louth Sports Unit are committed to following the child-centered approach laid down in Louth County Council's Child Safeguarding Guidelines for all services and programmes operated by the staff of Louth Sports Unit for the safeguarding of children.

Louth Sports Unit is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of the Louth County Council's Safeguarding Policy, our staff (employees of LCC, certified staff, work experience placements and volunteers) working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop. All staff of Louth Sports Unit who are involved in activities involving children are guided by what is best for children. Children's activities will be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. Standards of excellence will extend to personal conduct.

Louth Sports Unit's written Risk Assessment documents indicate the areas of potential risk or harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and give the required policy; guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The lists of risks identified are contained in the following categories: Programme Delivery Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications and General Risk of Harm.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on April 26th, 2018.

Louth Sports Units 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 and the provisions of Gateway N.I.). 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.

Louth Sports Unit has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Appropriate recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers;
- Implementing the Garda Vetting Procedure for all relevant employees and volunteers;
- Ensuring all Louth Sports Unit staff have attended and completed the Safeguarding Level One, two and three courses as appropriate to their role;
- Appropriate management, supervision and training of employees;
- The reporting, investigation and recording of incidents & accidents, complaints made against Louth Sports Unit and its employees/volunteers through Louth County Councils procedures;
- The reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse;
- Circulation of information to employees, volunteers, parents/guardians and participants on our activities and what can be expected of Louth Sports Unit in relation to those activities;
- Allegations of misconduct or abuse by employees.

Our Organisation is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while participating in our activities. We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process.

Louth Sports Unit child-centred approach

This approach means that Louth Sports Unit staff:

- Treat all children equally
- Listen to and respect children
- Involve children as appropriate
- Provide encouragement, support and praise (regardless of ability)
- Use appropriate language (verbal and physical)
- Have fun and encourage a positive atmosphere
- Offer constructive criticism when needed
- Treat all children as individuals
- Respect a child's personal space
- Use age-appropriate teaching aids
- Lead by example
- Be aware of child time limitations e.g. school/exams when scheduling activities
- Create an atmosphere of trust
- Be aware of the *Equal Status Act 2000-2015* which relates to discrimination based on grounds of :
 - Gender
 - Civil Status
 - Family Status
 - Age
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Disability

- Sexual Orientation
- Membership of the Traveller community

In addition, the *Equal Status Act 2000-2015* prohibits discrimination in the provision of accommodation services against people who are in receipt of rent supplement, housing assistance or social welfare payments.

- Use all information in respect of children only for the purpose for which it is given, subject to child protection concern(s);
- Only photograph or use photographs with the specific approval of parent/guardian(s).

Louth Sports Unit try to create an environment that children are listened to, given a sense of belonging, and are kept safe; parents are supported and encouraged; and employees and volunteers who work with children and young people are supported and protected. In order for us to meet these aims, Louth Sports Unit now follows the framework for good practice and code of behaviour as set out below.

Good Practice Framework

Louth Sports Unit aims to work within the following framework of good practice by:

- Providing policy training for employees and volunteers in line with these guidelines;
- Registering each child for day long or long term activities or projects (name, address, phone, special requirements, attendance, emergency contact & parental consent). It is suggested that registration forms be established for relevant service points or through computerised booking system were available;
- It will be noted that it is not possible to cover all open or public events e.g. concerts, play days, playgrounds;

- Complying with Louth County Council's Data Protection Policy with respect of personal and sensitive data regarding children and their parents/guardians subject to child safeguarding concerns;
- Making parents/guardians, children, visitors and facilitators aware of these child safeguarding guidelines;
- Having procedures in place for accident/ injuries or emergencies as laid out by Louth County Council's Health and Safety Policy;
- Reporting/recording any incidents and accidents;
- Being inclusive of children with special needs;
- Reporting any concerns to the Child Safeguarding Liaison Officer and following reporting procedures;
- Encouraging children to report any bullying concerns and worries, and be aware of the anti-bullying policy as appropriate to the service;
- Evaluation of work practices where contact with children occurs on a regular basis;
- Reviewing and updating policies and procedures regularly;
- Keeping parents/guardians informed of any issues of concern regarding their children as appropriate to the service i.e. formal organised activities e.g. sports events;
- Ensuring appropriate, to the service, supervision (including a minimum of two adults per 10 children) depending on age, abilities and activities involved;
- Ensuring that partner organisations are familiar with Louth Sports Units and Louth County Council's guidelines;
- Not ignoring concerns;

- Not letting a problem get out of control;
- Ensuring that there are adequate insurance arrangements in place to cover all relevant activities;
- Not permitting the photographing/filming or otherwise recording of children without the written consent of the parent/guardian;
- Not displaying images of children without the written consent of the parent/guardian.

Code of Behaviour in Relation to Children

Inappropriate Behaviour – Checklist for Employees/Volunteers

As a service operated by Louth County Council, Louth Sports Unit agrees the following behaviours are inappropriate as laid out by Louth County Council in their Child Safeguarding Guidelines:

- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children;
- Avoid taking children on journeys alone in a car where possible and never without the consent of the parent/guardian;
- Where possible employees should avoid being in a one-to-one situation with a child;
- Do not use/allow offensive or sexually suggestive physical conduct and/or verbal language;
- Do not single out a particular child (for unfair favouritism, criticism or ridicule);
- Do not allow/engage in inappropriate touching of any form;
- Do not hit or physically chastise children;

- Do not socialise inappropriately with children e.g. outside of structured organisational activities.

Where physical contact is an inherent part of an activity, it is important to seek consent of child/young person in relation to physical contact (except in an emergency or a dangerous situation); avoid horseplay or inappropriate touching; check with child/young person about their level of comfort when doing touching exercises i.e. games may involve holding hands, and it is about ensuring that this is done openly and within safe and comfortable limits for the child or young person.

Not revealing personal information about children in any way, subject to child safeguarding concerns.

Risk Assessment

Louth County Council has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of its services. This list of risks listed below should be read in conjunction with the corporate identified risks included in the Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	Child may witness an incident involving individuals exhibiting challenging behaviour or who are substance affected	Adequate staffing in place, family space available, and staff trained in managing difficult behaviour, sanctions policy in place, child support workers available to child if necessary
2	Child may be subject to harm from other children while accessing our services	Staff ratio, clearly defined boundaries for all children using our services, clear communication with parents/guardians as to expectations of services and supports offered where there may be deficits in knowledge/skills. Support plans/placement plans to reflect needs of children involved
3	Child may be subject to harm from staff member/volunteer/relief staff	Comprehensive recruitment and vetting process in place. Lone working policy outlines procedure for working alone with children. Site specific safety mechanisms in place. Code of Conduct for all staff
4	Child may be witness to/at risk due to domestic violence whilst in our services.	Child safeguarding procedure to be followed
5	Use of images of children	Photo consent is sought in advance from parents and/or schools for use of images in publications or online

6	Off site events	Circulation of child safeguarding statement and code of conduct to all staff involved and statement on view to public
7	Children in our accommodation services may be subject to harm from visitors/contractors to the service or premises	Adequate supervision procedures: Visitors/ Contractors sign in

Risk Assessment Document for *Dundalk Sports Centre*

This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children whilst they are in *Dundalk Sports Centre*. This risk assessment precedes the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) which is developed following this risk assessment process. In accordance with the requirements of *Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 the risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk (covered under a separate H&S policy and risk assessment)*.

Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 states that where a person proposes to operate as a provider of a relevant service, he or she shall, within 3 months from the date on which he or she commences as such a provider.

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
Programme Delivery					
Lack of coaching qualification	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employing qualified and trained staff 	DSC	Proof of qualification is confirmed and updated by ongoing review. Ongoing review	L
Supervision issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff qualified working with children ▪ Safeguarding in place 	DSC	Policies in place, circulated and available Ongoing review	L
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines for use of photographic & filming equipment 	DSC	Policies in place, circulated and available Ongoing review (24 months)	M

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
Behavioural Issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Safeguarding Level 1 (min) ▪ Behaviour issue Procedure ▪ Disciplinary & Complaints Procedure 	DSC	<p>Code in place, circulated and available Programme in process to make SL1 obligatory for coaches & staff Complaints & Disciplinary processes established and easy to access on LCC website</p> <p>Ongoing review</p>	L
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines CWD 	LCC	<p>Recently hired female staff part time, to be utilised where deemed necessary</p> <p>Ongoing Review</p>	L
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE					
Lack of awareness of a Complaints &	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disciplinary, Complaints & Appeals 	LCC	All policies circulated and published on LCC	L

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
Disciplinary policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedure LCC ▪ Communications procedure ▪ Section 4 Child Welfare Document (CWD) 		<p>website. Also, they are constantly referred to. Communication is good</p> <p><i>Procedure in section 4 CWD</i></p> <p>Ongoing review</p>	
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Reason: Covered above	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disciplinary & Complaints Procedure ▪ Communications procedure ▪ Section 4 CWD 	DSC/LCC	<p>Our Open Communication protocols are well established and we receive regular feedback on problems, issues and resolutions.</p> <p>Ongoing review</p>	L
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disciplinary, Complaints & Appeals Procedure ▪ Section 4 CWD 	LCC	<p>Every contact is logged and dealt with. We have never had such a complaint over a long period of time.</p> <p>Ongoing review</p>	L

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
REPORTING PROCEDURES					
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures amongst staff	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary, Complaints & Appeals Procedure including Reporting procedures/policy Induction Policy 	LCC	<p>As outlined above, all our guidelines and protocols are circulated and available. Staff all trained and inducted.</p> <p>Ongoing review</p>	L
No Mandated Person appointed	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedure/policy to MP 	LCC	Arja Cullen is the MP for LCC	L
No DLP Appointed	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 	DSC	Gerard McGahey, DLP	L
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary, Complaints & Appeals Procedure 	DSC/LCC	<p>Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)</p> <p>Publicise names of</p>	L

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
		including Reporting procedures/policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 		CPO, DLPs,- also MP(s) when appointed Publicise internal and external reporting procedures	
FACILITIES					
Unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No adults in area when kids are changing etc. ▪ CWD 	DSC	We clarify responsibilities before and continuously at our premises and at our events. Ongoing review	H
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kids cannot leave area without permission ▪ CWD 	DSC	Staff in place to supervise this. Ongoing review	H
Photography, filming or recording	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines for use of photographic & filming equipment 	DSC	Policy in place Ongoing review	M
Missing or found	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Missing Child 	DSC	Policy in place	M

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
child on site		Policy (CWD)			
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding policy as stated in Code of Ethics for Children's Sport* 	DSC	Never allowed	M
RECRUITMENT					
Recruitment of inappropriate people	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment policy ▪ Section 6 CWD 	LCC	H.R. policies strictly followed	L
Lack of clarity on roles	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment policy ▪ Section 6 CWD 	LCC	Job descriptions issued to all personnel	L
Unqualified or untrained people in role	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment policy ▪ Section 6 CWD 	LCC	Qualifications always checked and ongoing reviews in place	L
COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA					
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Statement ▪ Training policy ▪ Social Media Policy ▪ Section 1 CWD 	DSC	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement with staff and visiting groups	L

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Statement – display ▪ Code of Behaviour - distribute to staff and members 	DSC	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate	L
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines for use of photographic & filming equipment 	DSC	Policy in place and published. Ongoing review	M
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication s policy ▪ Code of conduct 	DSC	Constantly reviewed and issues addressed	M
GENERAL RISK OF HARM					
Harm not being recognised	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding policy as stated in Code of Ethics for Children's Sport* ▪ Child Safeguarding 	DSC	Ongoing review	M

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility DSC/LCC	Existing Status and Further action required ...	Revised Likelihood of harm happening in DSC L-M-H
		Training			
Harm caused by - child to child - coach to child - volunteer to child - visitor to child	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding policy ▪ Child Safeguarding Training 	DSC	Ongoing review	M M L L L
General behavioural issues	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ New members to sign 	DSC	Take disciplinary action where necessary Sign code of conduct	M

Risk Assessment Document for Lourdes Stadium Drogheda

This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children whilst they are in **Drogheda Sports Complexes (DSC)** care and more specifically while in the **Lourdes Stadium, Drogheda**. This risk assessment precedes the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) which is developed following this risk assessment process. In accordance with the requirements of *Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 the risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk (covered under a separate H&S policy and risk assessment)*.

Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 states that where a person proposes to operate as a provider of a relevant service, he or she shall, within 3 months from the date on which he or she commences as such a provider —

Undertake an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service (in this section referred to as a “risk”).

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening Low-Medium-High	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility: Club or Louth County Council (LCC)	Existing Status and Further action required ...
CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES				
Lack of coaching qualifications	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach education policy Recruitment policy 	Club	Proof of qualification to be confirmed
Supervision issues	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education policy 	Club	Ongoing review
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography and Use of Images policy 	Region	Ongoing review
Behavioural issues – peer to peer and leader behaviour	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of conduct Child Safeguarding training Complaints & Disciplinary policy 	Club	Ongoing review

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening Low-Medium-High	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility: Club or Louth County Council (LCC)	Existing Status and Further action required ...
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Child Safeguarding training Recruitment policy 	Club	Ongoing review
No guidance for travelling and away trips	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel/Away policy Child Safeguarding training 	Club	Ongoing review
Lack of adherence with procedures in Safeguarding Code (ratios transport, etc.)	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Code Complaints & Disciplinary policy 	Club	Ongoing review
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINARY				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy and process	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary process from Code of Ethics Communications procedure 	Club	Greater communication required
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy 	Club	Revise reporting process for child protection and welfare
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy Coach education policy 	Club	Make policies, procedures available Include in Safeguarding

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening Low-Medium-High	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility: Club or Louth County Council (LCC)	Existing Status and Further action required ...
procedures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of conduct/Behaviour 		training (L1) Include in coach education training
No Mandated Person appointed	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 		Publicise identity of mandated person and train in their role
No Club Children's Officer / Relevant Person appointed	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 	Club	Provide training for CCO (Relevant persons)
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 	Club	Include Safeguarding training (L1) Publicise names of CCOs & MP Publicise internal & external reporting procedures
Not clear who children should talk to or report concerns to	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post names of CCOs, DLPs and MP 	Club	Communicate in Club Include Safeguarding training (L1)
FACILITIES – LOURDES STADIUM				
Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	Region – due to Leinster events held also LCC – as it is owned and operated by them	Clarify roles and responsibilities prior to session starting
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	Club Region and LCC (as	Clarify roles and responsibilities prior to

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening Low-Medium-High	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility: Club or Louth County Council (LCC)	Existing Status and Further action required ...
			above)	session starting
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography policy and use of devices in private zones 	Club LCC	Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas
Missing or found child on site	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing or found child policy 	LCC	Refer to policy and inform Gardaí
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing, showers	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy 	LCC	Plan with LCC to create a suitable child centered environment in shared facilities
RECRUITMENT				
Recruitment of inappropriate people	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe recruitment policy 	Club	Ongoing review
Lack of clarity on roles	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe recruitment policy 	Club / County	Check job description Put supervision in place
Unqualified or untrained people in role	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe recruitment policy 	Club	Check qualification – DOC only needs a Level 1 Ongoing review
COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA				
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement – display Code of Behaviour - distribute 	Club	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening Low-Medium-High	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility: Club or Louth County Council (LCC)	Existing Status and Further action required ...
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Training policy 	Club	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography & Use of Images Policy 	Club LCC	Ongoing review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18s	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Policy Code of Conduct 	Club	Ongoing review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18s	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Policy Code of Conduct 	Club	Ongoing review
GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
Harm not being recognised	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy Child Safeguarding Training 	Club	Review reporting process Informal consultation with Tusla
Harm caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child to child Leader to child 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy Child Safeguarding Training 	Club	Child protection reporting process to Tusla or Gardaí
General behavioural	Medium	Code of Conduct	Club	Take disciplinary action where

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening Low-Medium-High	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility: Club or Louth County Council (LCC)	Existing Status and Further action required ...
issues				necessary

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statements have 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:

- Louth County Council Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement
- Louth County Council's Policy and Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children:
 - Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
 - Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
 - Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons and Deputy Liaison Officers

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Reporting a Concern

Anyone can report a concern about a child. If you have any concerns about a child, you should report it to Tusla. A report can be made in person, by telephone or in writing. Any member of the public who has a concern about a child can contact the Tusla local social work duty service in the area where the child lives for advice about reporting your concerns.

In the event of any emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger and you cannot get in contact with Tusla, you should contact [An Garda Síochána](#).

If a child is in danger outside office hours you can contact the Gardai.

If you require any further information on the Local Authority's Policies and Procedures, please contact Deputy Child Protection Liaison Officers;

- Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
- Yvonne O'Brien, County Librarian
- John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer, Quality of Life

Further information on Child Protection – www.tusla.ie

Louth Sports Unit – Child welfare contacts.

Louth Sports Unit has assigned three staff members who have obtained certificates in Level 1,2, & 3 in Child Safeguarding as child welfare contacts in the Sports Unit. They are Gerard McGahey, Richard English & Triona Faapito. They will have pictures displayed on the units child protection board as a point of contact for children who may have concerns, who will in return contact Tusla. These concerns will be report to the appropriate duty child protection liaison officer or if outside officer hours to contact the Gardai.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Specific Service Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services. This Statement will be reviewed within 24 months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Paddy Donnelly

Director of Service