



Athy Community & Family Resource Centre Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service:

Athy Community Family Resource Centre, Woodstock Street, Athy, R14 NN97

2. Nature of service:

Athy Community Family Resource Centre is part of the National Family Resource Centre programme. Athy Community FRC's remit is to work with the community of Athy (Athy Urban East & West and Athy Rural) across the life span, to provide a Family Support Hub for the community, where families and individuals feel supported in their own life and in their family life. The Centre aims to provide services and supports which enhance the emotional, educational, economic and social wellbeing of children, individuals, families and the community as a whole.

The **staff team** consists of a Manager, two Family Support & Community Development Workers, an Administrator, a Preparing For Life Home Visitor, two Housekeeping staff and two Maintenance staff.

Athy Community FRC is governed by a voluntary board of directors who are appointed at a public AGM, which is held annually. Athy Community FRC is a registered charity and is externally audited each year.

Here at Athy FRC we provide the following services to children/young people:

- Parent & Toddler group
- Preparing For Life Home Visiting
- Family Support, including parenting programmes, Drop In service
- Baby Massage
- Play Therapy
- My Place To Play packs distributor
- Rainbows programme for children
- Support groups that meet in the FRC (i.e. La Leche League, Teach Tearmainn Drop In)

From time to time special activities and outings are also arranged for families. Level of contact ranges from group work to one to one family support contact (with children present).



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Guiding Principles to safeguard children from harm:

Athy Community Family Resource Centre is **committed to safeguarding children in our care** and ensuring the Centre is a safe environment in which children can play, learn and develop without harm.

We believe that:

- Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount;
- Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding every two years;
- All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background;
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard;
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our Family Resource Centre;
- Staff/volunteers must conduct themselves according to the Family Resource Centre Code of Behaviour and Conduct, in a way that reflects the principles, ethos and values of our Family Resource Centre.

Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) for Child Protection:

<p>Designated Liaison Person:</p> <p>Sarah McElroy, FRC Manager</p> <p>085 8059466 sarah@athycfrc.ie</p>	<p>Deputy Designated Liaison Person</p> <p>Victoria Kavanagh, Family Support & Community Development Worker</p> <p>085 8059464 victoria@athycfrc.ie</p>
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3. Risk Assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) to a child while availing of our services. Risk of harm **as defined in the Act 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 a child.**

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 (listed to mitigate the risk)
1	Risk of harm to children from staff/volunteers, including 1:1 working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment and selection procedure - Reporting procedure - Allegations of abuse against staff/volunteers procedure - Complaints procedure - Code of behaviour procedure for staff/volunteers - Training strategy for staff and volunteers - 1:1 working procedure - Staff and volunteer supervision procedure
2	Risk of harm of abuse of children as a result of staff/volunteers not being aware of indicators of abuse or correct reporting or safeguarding procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting Procedure - Training strategy for staff and volunteers - Induction and training procedure - Staff and volunteer supervision procedure
3	Risk of harm of abuse of children from visitors/members of the public/contractors/partner agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision of children procedure - Procedure for sign in of visitors - Agreed joint child safeguarding procedures for contracted or partnership agencies
4	Risk of harm of abuse from peer to peer abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of behaviour for young people - Supervision of children procedure - Anti bullying procedure - Complaints procedure - Training strategy for staff and volunteers - Reporting procedure - Safe use of internet and photographic and recording devices procedure
5	Risk of harm of abuse to children by the inappropriate use of digital images or social media by staff/volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of behaviour procedure for staff/volunteers and young people - Supervision of young people procedure - Safe use of internet and photographic and recording devices procedure - Complaints procedure - Training strategy for staff and volunteers - Induction and training procedure - Staff and volunteer supervision procedure - Reporting procedure - Allegations of abuse against staff/volunteers procedure
6	Risk of harm due to inadequate parental supervision of a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parental group agreements in place to ensure adequate supervision at all times.



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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*. The following procedures list in our risk assessment and the specified procedures below support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the **management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff/volunteers** of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe **recruitment and selection** of staff and volunteers to work with 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 (if any) in the relevant service who are **mandated persons**;
- Procedure for **appointing a relevant person**;
- Additional procedures identified in risk assessment.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be displayed prominently.

All procedures will be made available to staff, parents, young people, members of the public and Tusla if requested.

5. Implementation & Review date:

Athy Community Family Resource Centre recognises that implementation is an on-going process. The Centre 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 on **16th August 2024**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

FRC Manager

Date: 17th August 2022

Athy Community Family Resource Centre,
Woodstock St, Athy, Co. Kildare, R14NN97
085 8059466 Sarah@athycfrc.ie



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For queries, please contact **Sarah McElroy**, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.
(Named person responsible for ensuring the FRC is meeting its responsibilities under Children First legislation and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.)

