

Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown Libraries (dlr Libraries)

Child Safeguarding Statement

Prepared in accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015

This statement sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure that, as far as possible, a child availing of the services of dlr Libraries is safe from harm.

1. Name of service being provided

Library Services for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County. dlr Libraries considers that they are a relevant service under the Act.

2. Nature of service

dlr Libraries serves the educational, recreational, cultural and Informational needs of all who live, work or study in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area through its network of 8 branch libraries and Home Library service.

3. Principles to safeguard children from harm

dlr Libraries are committed to a child-centered approach to our work with children in the delivery of all our services and activities. The Local Authority has an overall corporate duty and responsibility to safeguard the children accessing the Local Authority services and activities which includes the services provided by dlr Libraries.

dlr Libraries 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 or, specifically, dlr Libraries;
- 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 within dlr Libraries 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 within dlr Libraries;

- Developing a policy of interagency cooperation with Tusla and other agencies involved in the protection of a child within dlr Libraries.

dlr Libraries' child-centered approach means we will:

- Treat all children equally
- Listen to and respect children
- Involve children as appropriate
- Provide encouragement, support and praise (regardless of ability)
- Use appropriate language (verbally and physically)
- 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 a child's limitations, e.g. school/exams, when scheduling activities
- Create an atmosphere of trust
- Be aware of the Equal Status Act 2000-2010 which relates to discrimination based on nine grounds which relates to discrimination based on nine grounds:
 - Gender
 - Civil Status
 - Family Status
 - Age
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Disability
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Membership of the Traveller community
- Use all information in respect of children only for the purposes for which it is given, subject to child protection concern(s).

4. Risk Assessment

In accordance with guidelines set out in *Children First: National Guidance for the protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, a risk assessment has been carried out in order to identify any instances in which, whilst availing of the services of dlr Libraries, there exists the potential for a child to come to harm. The document outlines how any risks may be mitigated, the likelihood of these risk occurring and the person/s responsible for managing that risk.

5. 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, the following procedures

support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers 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 and Liaison Officers
- LGMA Child Safety Guidelines for Online Events and Activities
- My Open Library User Policy
- Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown Library Service CCTV Policy for Staff
- Dlr Libraries Guidelines for the use of services by children and students
- Internet Conditions of Use 2018
- Photography permission procedures

All procedures listed above are available on our web site upon request.

6. 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 an emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger and you cannot get in touch with Tusla, or if a child is in danger outside office hours, you should contact An Garda Síochána.

If you have a concern or require any further information on dlr Libraries policies and procedures, please contact one of the following:

Relevant Person for dlr Libraries:

Senior Executive Librarian - Domitilla Fagan
Email: dfagan@dlrcoco.ie or call 01-2362700

Designated Liaison Person for dlr Libraries:

County Librarian – Catherine Gallagher
Email: cgallagher@dlrcoco.ie or call 01-2362700

dlr Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer:

Therese Langan, Director of Service
Email: tlangan@dlrcoco.ie or call 01-2054700

dlr Designated Child Protection Deputy Liaison Officer:

Administrative Officer, Human Resources Department – Siobhán Naughton
snaughton@dlrcoco.ie or call 01-2054700

Any incident which raises concerns regarding the protection of children and young people in dlr Libraries must be reported and logged with one of the above persons.

7. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Dlr Libraries 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 services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by _____, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Therese Langan

Director of Service

Date: 10.06.2022