



## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

**2024**

### **1. Name of Service being provided:**

There are several services provided to children at Tuam Cancer Care. The services include the CLIMB Programme (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) Programme, as well as Art/Play Therapy/Counselling for children and young people.

### **2. Nature of the service and principles to safeguard children from harm**

CLIMB: is a programme for children aged 6 – 12 whose parent / guardian has had a cancer diagnosis.

Art Therapy is delivered either on a one-to-one basis, or with siblings. Children using this service tend to be bereaved due to a cancer diagnosis of a parent / guardian. In some cases Art Therapy is offered to children if a CLIMB Programme is not available or if the nature of the interaction required is more complex than usual.

The facilitators for the CLIMB Programme have all been trained in delivering the Programme. They also have Garda vetting in place. One of the core elements of the Programme is that there are two trained facilitators with the group of children at all times.

The Art Therapist is a fully accredited member of IAPTP (Irish Association for Play & Psychotherapy)

The Counsellor is highly experienced and is a member of the IADT.

### **3. Risk Assessment**

	<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Child left alone with one of the CLIMB facilitators while room is being set up for session / being tidied up after session</b>	<b>Child not to be left with facilitator. If a parent &amp; child arrive early for a session, the parent will stay with the child until a second facilitator arrives.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Child requiring toilet during the session</b>	<b>Child should be able to go to the toilet unaccompanied and in the case of younger children the parent should check before they leave the child if they need the bathroom.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>A child participating in CLIMB</b>	<b>Children will not be left on their own. There will be a minimum of 1 facilitator in the room with two or more</b>

	<b>experiencing physical or mental abuse from another child participating in the group</b>	<b>children at any time</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>One of the children having an accident while in the building</b>	<b>All Health &amp; Safety risks have been assessed and all reasonable steps have been taken to mitigate any identified risks. Children will not be taking part in any unsafe activities. All materials used are assessed by the therapist / counsellor / facilitator as safe.</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Child left alone with therapist / counsellor in their own premises</b>	<b>Therapist / Counsellor works to a code of ethics of the professional bodies that they are registered with.</b> <b>Therapist /Counsellor is Garda vetted</b> <b>Therapist is trained in Tusla Child Protection Policy</b> <b>Where possible parent waits in premises or if no waiting room, nearby and is contactable by phone</b>

#### **4. Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidelines*, 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 against staff / therapists / volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of therapists 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

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## **5. Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service 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 in 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

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Name and Contact Details:

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**For queries, please contact: Maureen Grealish, Manager Tuam Cancer Care**

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015