



Transgender
Equality
Network
Ireland

Child Safeguarding Statement

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Document Owner	Executive Director
Approved By	TENI Board
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Organisation Information

Name of organisation: Transgender Equality Network Ireland

Office location: Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre, 105 Capel Street, Dublin 1.

Office contact: office@teni.ie

Services Offered

TENI engages in activities that promote the equality and well-being of trans people in Ireland. There are three strands to our work: support, education and advocacy.

Family Support Groups:

- **TransParenCI** is our parent support group, for parents of transgender and gender-diverse young people
- **Transformers** is our teen support group, for transgender and gender-diverse young people aged 13-18.
- **TransParenCI Minis** is a support group for parents of young people aged 12 and under, which meets online.
- **Transcend** is a support group for 18-24 year olds, which meets online.

Both TransParenCI and Transformers run once a month in person and online, and run for 90 minutes. The in person meetings take place in Dublin, Cork and Waterford.

TENI works closely with schools and organisations who have direct contact with young people in order to provide ongoing support and guidance. This can include support and advice to school staff, staff training, policy support, and student/young people workshops.

Safeguarding Principles

TENI's principles to safeguard children from harm are:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.
- TENI fully subscribes to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Every child who attends our service should be treated with respect and dignity.

Risk Assessment

TENI have carried out a risk assessment against our services offered of any potential for harm of a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of amalgamated areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk Identified		Procedure Identified to Manage Risk Identified
1	Risk of Harm to a child from TENI staff or volunteers	Child protection policy, personnel induction, external child protection training. Garda vetting requirement for those who work with young people. Designated Protection Officer in place on the TENI staff team.
2	Risk of harm to a child from visitor (parent, facilitator, etc)	Code of conduct on display on our premises and on our website. External visitors are always accompanied by TENI staff or volunteers when working directly with children.
3	Risk of harm to a child from another child	Code of conduct on display on our website. Youth group facilitators are trained and able to intervene if needed. Youth groups are always supervised. Youth groups establish group codes of conduct/contracts.
4	Non-compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children	Regular review of Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement. Regular review of relevant Acts and Guidance.
5	Harm not being recognised or reported by TENI staff or volunteers	Child protection policy, personnel induction, external child protection training, and regular review of these by TENI staff.
6	Not knowing how to manage an allegation of abuse by a child	Child protection policy, personnel induction, external child protection training. DPO trained and in place on the TENI staff team.

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 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 services:

- 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 the 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.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Responsible Staff:

Designated Protection Officer Hannah Solley hannah@teni.ie	Executive Director Daire Dempsey daire@teni.ie
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