

# Le Chéile Child Safeguarding Statement

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**Name of service being provided:** Le Chéile Mentoring & Youth Justice Support Service

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## **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:**

Le Chéile is a community-based volunteer mentoring and family support service, which works with young people involved in or at risk of offending. Le Chéile was established in 2005 to provide a mentoring service to children and young people engaged with the Probation Service, to meet the requirements of the Mentor (Family Support) Order of the Children Act 2001.

Le Chéile's services encompass:

- Youth Mentoring service
- Parent Mentoring service
- Administration of the Strengthening Families Programme on behalf of the Probation Service
- Parenting Programmes
- Family Support Interventions, and
- Restorative Justice Project in Limerick.

Le Chéile Mentoring & Youth Justice Support Services (Le Chéile) is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all children and young people with whom we work. Le Chéile is committed to promoting the rights of the child, including the participation of children and young people in matters that affect them.

Our guidelines are based on the Children First Act 2015; Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare for Children 2017; the Children Act 2001 and the UN Convention on the Rights for the Child. Le Chéile's guidelines are set out in this Child Safeguarding Statement and the Le Chéile Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. All staff, Board of Management and volunteers involved with young people have been circulated this document and have agreed to adhere to these guidelines.

## **Le Chéile'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.
- Interventions by the State should build on existing strengths and protective factors in the family.
- Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where it is necessary for the State to intervene to keep children safe, the minimum intervention necessary should be used.
- Children should only be separated from parents/carers when alternative means of protecting them have been exhausted.
- 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.

**Risk Assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our service:**

Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Policy
Staff and volunteers' access to young people alone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Volunteer handbook</li> </ul>
Not recognising abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction Training</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> </ul>
Volunteers driving young people in their cars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only be approved in exceptional circumstances by Coordinators</li> <li>• Volunteer Handbook</li> </ul>
Not passing on information or taking appropriate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction Training</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Supervision policy</li> </ul>
Making young person feel uncomfortable/crossing boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Coordinator role with young person</li> </ul>
Unrealistic/inappropriate expectations of the child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Coordinator role with young person</li> </ul>
Wilfully permitting harm to come to young person during activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Coordinator role with young person</li> </ul>
Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Coordinator role with young person</li> </ul>
Inappropriate places for activities – betting shops, bars, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Coordinator role with young person</li> </ul>
Grooming or commencing a sexual relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and Police vetting policies</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Coordinator role with young person</li> </ul>
Contact with or exploitation of a young person for criminal purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinator role with young person</li> </ul>
People known to volunteers presenting a risk e.g. exploitation, sexual abuse, criminal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy</li> <li>Child Protection Policy</li> <li>Coordinator role with young person</li> <li>Volunteer handbook</li> </ul>
Mentor relationship continuing beyond agreed time period or outside agreed boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Induction training</li> <li>Volunteer handbook</li> </ul>

### Procedures:

Our 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. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures included in the full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- 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
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person
- 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.

### List of Mandated Persons:

A current list of the Mandated Persons employed by Le Chéile has been collated and will be maintained by the CEO and will be updated whenever there are changes in relevant personnel.

**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 the service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in March 2019 and every two years thereafter, or as soon as practical after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

**Anne Conroy**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Le Chéile Mentoring & Youth Justice Support Services**

Tivoli Training Centre  
24 Tivoli Terrace South  
Dún Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin

**Tel:** 01 2144350/2144334

For queries, please contact: Anne Conroy  
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

## Le Chéile's Designated Liaison Person is the CEO

### Anne Conroy, CEO.

Mobile: 086-2248511

Land Line: 01-2144334

Email: [anneconroy@lecheile.ie](mailto:anneconroy@lecheile.ie)

Address: Le Chéile Mentoring & Youth Justice Support Services, Tivoli Training Centre,  
24 Tivoli Terrace South, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

## Deputy Designated Liaison Persons 2018

Region/Project	DLP	Phone	Email
Dublin North	Ingrid Cooney	086-3830700	<a href="mailto:Ingrid@lecheile.ie">Ingrid@lecheile.ie</a>
Dublin South and Dublin Youth Garda Project	Marie Vanasova	087-2016801	<a href="mailto:marie@lecheile.ie">marie@lecheile.ie</a>
Cork North & East	Ailbe Coleman	086-3864576	<a href="mailto:ailbecolemen@leChéile.ie">ailbecolemen@leChéile.ie</a>
Cork South & West	Allison Gordon	086-0472419	<a href="mailto:allisongordon@leChéile.ie">allisongordon@leChéile.ie</a>
Limerick	Alan Quinn	086-7966440	<a href="mailto:alan@lecheile.ie">alan@lecheile.ie</a>
South East and Waterford Youth Garda Project	Heather Sinnott	086-3871214	<a href="mailto:heather@lecheile.ie">heather@lecheile.ie</a>
Midlands	Helen McCarthy	087-7966441	<a href="mailto:Helen@lecheile.ie">Helen@lecheile.ie</a>
North East	Lyndsey McCabe	087-2916145	<a href="mailto:lyndsey@lecheile.ie">lyndsey@lecheile.ie</a>
Restorative Justice	Mary Henihan	028-0678336	<a href="mailto:maryh@lecheile.ie">maryh@lecheile.ie</a>
Oberstown	Rónán O'Malley	087-2404004	<a href="mailto:ronanomalley@lecheile.ie">ronanomalley@lecheile.ie</a>

All other staff member's Designated Liaison Person is the CEO.

## The Deputy Designated Liaison Persons for the CEO are:

Position	DLP	Phone	Email
Regional Manager	Andy Bray	086-7805201	<a href="mailto:andrewbray@lecheile.ie">andrewbray@lecheile.ie</a>
Regional Manager	Seamus Kerans	087-0678336	<a href="mailto:seamuskerans@lecheile.ie">seamuskerans@lecheile.ie</a>