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# SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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COTTAGE AUTISM NETWORK  
CHY18103

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Cottage Autism Network Ltd. is an organisation that supports families impacted by autism. This support includes setting up and running youth groups and activities that enable those impacted by autism and their siblings to participate in a range of activities that enhances their development.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Directors of Cottage Autism Network Ltd. has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Directors has adopted and will implement fully and without modification their Child Protection Policy as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Nemone Van ver Bliake
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP): Bobby Devereux
- 4 The Board of Director's recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of our work and must be reflected in all the organisation's policies, procedures, practices and activities. The organisation will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The organisation will:
  - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
  - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
  - d. adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and those working with them from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
  - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the organisation; and
  - f. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

The organisation will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult with a special vulnerability.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
- a. In relation to the selection or recruitment of personnel and their suitability to work with children, the organisation adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance regarding recruiting personnel through ensuring that all volunteers and facilitators complete an application form and provide two referees.
  - b. In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary instruction and training to personnel in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school:
    - i. Has provided each member of the team (volunteers and facilitators) with a copy of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Welfare Policy.
    - ii. Ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Welfare Policy
    - iii. Encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
    - iv. Encourages Board of Director members to avail of relevant training
    - v. The Board of Director's maintains records of all volunteer/ facilitator and Board member training.
  - c. In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in Children First Act 2015
  - d. In this organisation, the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's child safeguarding statement.
- 6 In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending or participating in CAN activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the organisation's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures
- 7 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the organisation's website or will be made available on request by the organisation.

- 8 This statement has been published on the organisation's website and has been provided to all members of the Board, the volunteers and facilitators. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request.
- 9 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Director's on Feb 27, 2018

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Director's

Secretary to the Board of Director's

Date:

Date: