

Sensational Kids

Realising Potential Together



Sensational Kids Child Safeguarding Statement

June 2020

Child Protection Trained Therapists - Kildare

Yvonne O'Neill (Play Therapy)

Sarah Gorman (Speech and Language Therapy)

Child Protection Trained Therapists - Clonakilty

Elaine Baldwin (Speech & Language Therapy) - DLP

Mary Lucey (Occupational Therapist)

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1. Name of service being provided

Sensational Kids CLG:

- a) Unit F2, Kildare Business Park, Melitta Road, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare
- b) 2nd Floor Building G, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
- c) Lakeside Retail Park, 24 Ballindine Rd, Carrowbeg East, Claremorris, Co Mayo, F12 P2H9
- d) Clones Business Technology Park, Unit 8, Clones, Co. Monaghan, H23 P294

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

Brief description of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children)

Sensational Kids provide a range of support services to children and adolescents. These include: Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Reading Skills, Play Therapy, Educational Psychology Assessments, Audiology, Training programmes, and child development & learning resources through our social enterprise store. Sensational Kids directly employ twenty-three staff and sub-contracts in a further five.

The Safety, welfare and development of children and young people are a core objective and key priority for Sensational Kids. The organisation and each staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure, in as far as practicable, that every child/young person availing of and/or attending our service is safe and protected from harm (physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect). Sensational Kids policies and procedures have been developed to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise; and to manage it safely where it does. The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all Sensational Kids staff (employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any person performing any role or function in, or on behalf of Sensational Kids).

Sensational Kids is committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children and young people. Sensational Kids provides its services to and for children. It is central to the philosophy of Sensational Kids that children are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while using our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by the following risk assessment.

3. Risk assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm (as defined in the Children's First Act, 2015) to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of **procedures for managing these risks.**

Risk identified	Procedures in place to manage risk identified	Associated Policy
1.	<p>Risk of harm to the child from a member of staff/volunteer/peer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-employment reference checks and garda Vetting for all employees, sub-contractors, and board of directors and volunteers who are in direct contact with children. - Professional standards for healthcare staff - Professional registration with CORU and membership of relevant professional body for healthcare professionals - Code of behaviour for staff - Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery - Consent agreements with legal guardians - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager. - The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Protection Policy -Standard Operating procedure document -Employee Handbook - HR Policies -Consent form/agreement document -Contract of employment for employees
2.	<p>Risk of harm of bullying to a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-employment checks and Garda Vetting for all employees, sub-contractors, and board of directors and volunteers who are in direct contact with children. - Professional standards for healthcare staff - Professional registration with CORU and membership of relevant professional body for healthcare professionals - Code of behaviour for staff - Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery - Consent agreements with legal guardians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Protection Policy -Standard Operating procedure document -Employee Handbook -Consent form/agreement document

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee. - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. - The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years. - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. 	
3.	Risk of harm to a child from unauthorised photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision/accompaniment on site by a parent/carer and therapist - Code of behaviour for staff - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. - Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery - Completion of Consent agreements with legal guardian for photographic use - All aspects of GDPR in place - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. - All staff are provided with a copy of our Digital Media Policy - All staff know that visitors are not permitted to take unauthorised photography or video footage of a child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Protection Policy -Standard Operating procedure document -Employee Handbook -Consent form/agreement document -Data protection Policy -Digital Media Policy
4.	Risk of harm to a child from online abuse through social media or internet access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-employment checks/Garda Vetting - Professional standards for healthcare staff - Professional registration with CORU and membership of relevant professional body for healthcare professionals - Code of behaviour for staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Protection Policy -Standard Operating procedure document -Employee Handbook -Consent form/agreement document -Data protection Policy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery - Supervision/accompaniment on site - Consent agreements with Legal Guardian - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. 	
5.	Risk of harm to a child through the use of online video calls to provide online therapy during COVID 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-employment checks/Garda Vetting - Professional standards for healthcare staff - Professional registration with CORU and membership of relevant professional body for healthcare professionals - Code of behaviour for staff - Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery - Supervision by parent during delivery of online video call - GDPR compliant secure service delivery through Private Practice Software - Consent agreements with legal guardian - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Protection Policy -Standard Operating procedure document -Employee Handbook -Consent form/agreement document -Data protection Policy -Telehealth Standard Operating Procedure Document/policy
6.	Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision/accompaniment/admission/public access policies that are relevant to service provision - Staff supervision and training - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Protection Policy -Standard Operating procedure document -Employee Handbook -Data protection Policy

		<p>reported to the relevant line manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla 	
7.	Risk of non-compliance with children's First Act and National Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's first governance structure - Children's first compliance checklist - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager. - The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years by DLP, the Clinical Governance Committee and approved by the board of directors. - All therapy staff receive clinical supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection Policy - Employee Handbook - Contract of Employment
8.	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff information, supervision and training - Reporting procedure in place - Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting - Mandatory training in children's first is provided for mandated persons - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy . Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the relevant line manager.The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years. - Consultation with service users: surveys to be completed with parents attending the service on a six monthly basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Protection Policy -Standard Operating procedure document -Employee Handbook
9.	A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy . Any breach of the Child Protection Policy will be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection Policy - Employee Handbook

		<p>reported to the relevant line manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. Internal disciplinary processes are in place where the issue concerns an employee. 	
10.	Child makes a disclosure to a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All staff and volunteers are provided with the Child Protection Policy. - All staff know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection Policy

4. Procedures

Sensational Kids 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 to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

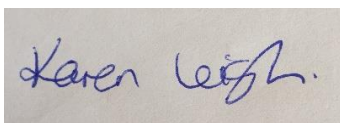
- Recruitment procedures to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are safe and suitable to work with children, including garda vetting and reference checking.
- Procedures are outlined in Guiding Principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service.
- Procedure for provision of, and access to, child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person for the purpose of this statement, Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are 'Mandated Persons' as defined under the Children First Act 2015
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla or the Gardaí as appropriate

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 on 16th June 2022, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Karen Leigh, CEO, Sensational Kids CLG, Unit F2 Kildare Business Park, Co. Kildare

Phone number: 045520900

For queries, please contact **Karen Leigh**, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Policy Version History

Date of Review	Next Review Date
April 2014	
October 2018	
June 2020 (Approved by the Board of Directors 22.06.2020)	June 2022