

Galway Theatre Festival Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of service:

Galway Theatre Festival, 1 Courthouse Square, Galway

Nature of service provided:

Established in 2008, Galway Theatre Festival (GTF) is a theatre festival focussed on emerging and independent theatre makers in Galway and the West of Ireland. While theatre for children and young audiences is not the main focus of our work, each year we present at least one family-friendly or child focused production. The festival takes place in a number of venues in Galway City and county, as well as online events.

Galway Theatre Festival is committed to a child-centred approach in our work for children and young people.

Principles to safeguard children from harm:

Below are GTF principles and procedures which should be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child is safe from harm while interacting with GTF:

- All GTF core team members have undertaken Tusla online Child Protection Training Children First E-Learning.
- All child protection or welfare concerns will be reported to Tusla/Gardaí in a timely manner.
- Children are always accompanied by a parent/guardian or teacher while at a GTF event.
- A child in need of personal support because of illness, physical needs or any form of
 distress, shall be referred in the first place to his/her parent/guardian or teacher. A
 parent/guardian or teacher should inform a member of staff if there are any specific
 needs required during a child's participation at a GTF event.

Risk Assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm 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 risks identified

Non-compliance with GTF's Child Protection Policy	All team members and volunteers provided with the Child Protection Policy will be reported to the Designated Liaison. The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every 2 years.
2. Delay in making referrals to Tusla	All team and regular volunteers are trained and supported to ensure they can act promptly and not delay in contacting the Designated Liaison when they deem a referral may be required.
3. Receipt of complaint of alleged child abuse where a parent, guardian or teacher is the alleged perpetrator.	All team members 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.
4. Child makes a disclosure to a member of team	All team members know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.
5. A suspicion of child abuse is determined by a member of team.	All team members know the procedures to make a referral to the Designated Liaison Person or directly to Tusla.

Galway Theatre Festival's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act 2015*, and 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 support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our services
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers 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' as defined under the Children First Act 2015

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

Galway Theatre Festival recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. We are 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 Statement will be reviewed in January 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signatories of this statement: Aoife Noone, Artistic Director, Gavin Bluett Chair of Board of Directors

Name and contact details:

Galway Theatre Festival, 1 Courthouse Square, Galway.

For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact Aoife Noone, Artistic Director & Gavin Bluett, Chair of the Board & Designated Liaison Person, at the address above or email galwaytheatrefestival@gmail.com