

Macra na Feirme
Child Safeguarding Statement 2021

Macra na Feirme’s Child Safeguarding Statement is intended to be an overarching Child Safeguarding Statement for the organisation which is cascaded down to individual club level, and to be adopted as their own.

1.Name of Service being provided: Macra na Feirme

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

Nature of Service: Rural Youth Organisation for members aged 17-35 years, our mission is to contribute to the sustainable development of rural communities in Ireland by supporting the social, economic, cultural, personal development and wellbeing of young people. Macra employs 23 paid staff. It has approximately 840 volunteer leaders, who are Club or County Officers, or National representatives. Macra has 176 Clubs nationwide, with approximately 10,000 members, approximately 4% of whom are under the aged of 18 years.

Macra na Feirme engage with adult and youth members aged 17 years in a variety of different ways, for example: Competitions such as debating, sports, talent & farm skills; Education – officer training, farm talks, workshops; Social – club meetings, celebrations, sports activities.

Principles: Although Macra na Feirme is not a predominantly childrens’ organisation, we are committed to the implementation of good practice in Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People 2017 and meeting our requirements under the Children First Act 2015.

Macra na Feirme is committed to the welfare and protection of all of its members and believes everyone within our organisation has responsibility for ensuring that the best interest of the child in paramount.

3. Risk Assessment

Each Club with underage membership has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while engaging in Macra na Feirme. Below is a list of the headline areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks. (A more detailed risk assessment has been carried out and is available on request).

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk Identified
<p>Engagement with Young People. These include risks in relation to bullying, poor practice, inadequate supervision, ineffective code of behaviour, communication online and offline, trips away/residentials</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour Code of Conduct for Members</p>
<p>Reporting Procedures These include risks in relation to lack of procedures, knowledge and understanding of reporting, role of mandated persons and DLP.</p>	<p>Reporting procedure in Macra’s Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures</p>
<p>Safe Recruitment and Selection of Staff This includes risk related to unsuitable people engaging with young people, lack of garda vetting, reference checks, etc..</p>	<p>Recruitment and Selection Procedure in Macra’s Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures and Macra’s Garda vetting policy.</p>

<p>Information, Training and Communication These includes risks relating to lack of communication of procedures, inadequate training of staff, inappropriate recording/filming of young people</p>	<p>Macra's Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures Training of staff and volunteers Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Allegations of Abuse This includes risks of having inadequate procedures to respond to allegations or lack of adherence to these procedures</p>	<p>Macra's Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures on responding to allegations Training of Staff and Volunteers</p>
<p>Working with Other Parties and/or sharing facilities This includes risks associated with lack of agreements with third parties</p>	<p>Macra's Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures on working with external parties</p>

4. 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 support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the safeguarding of members under the age of 18 years
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against a child by Macra staff or member
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff
- 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 in Macra na Feirme who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

PLEASE NOTE: All procedures listed above are available upon request from Macra na Feirme.

5. Implementation

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been shared with all of Macra Members, Club Officers, Staff, and Management. It has been signed off by Board Members. It is available on request to parents/guardians, members of the public, Tusla etc. It is also displayed on Macra na Feirme central offices, website and in each Macra Clubs premises.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our organisation 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 01.02.2022, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

DATE: 01.02.2021

Signed:



Denis Duggan, CEO

Macra Na Feirme, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12

For queries, please contact Rachael Murphy 0868151742 who is Macra na Feirme's Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.