

## **Safe-guarding statement for young people and children.**

Extern provides direct supports to young people and their families through a range of activities delivered in family homes, as well as local community amenities and Extern facilities. The services provided to young people include individual work, group work, overnight respite, and a range of recreational, vocational and educational activities. Extern provides the transport for young people and families in order to get them to and from all activities provided.

Extern works with children and young people up to the age of 18 who have been assessed as having additional and / or complex needs. The children and young people are deemed to be at risk of reception into care or custody due to their environmental and / or behavioural circumstances. Families have been assessed as requiring support to integrate into or remain in their local communities.

### **Safeguarding Principles**

Extern is committed to maximising safety and minimising risk in our work with children and young people. We are committed to having a child centred ethos and a culture of vigilance. Extern services are delivered with the following underlying principles:

- Children and young people's safety and well-being is of paramount concern.
- Children's age, gender, culture, sexual-orientation, religion and mental and physical abilities are taken into consideration and respected when designing programme plans.
- Services will promote children and young people's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth through a strengths-based approach.
- Services will promote children and young people's capacity to make positive choices and take responsibility for their own behaviour and in doing so promote their capacity to keep themselves safe from harm.
- Children, young people and their families who engage with Extern services are respected and heard through consultation, communication and regular evaluation.

### **Current Safeguarding Procedures**

Extern's Current Procedures for Safe-Guarding children and young people are in line with the Children's First Act 2015 and Children's First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017. The procedures outlined below, support Extern in applying our safeguarding measures:

**Recruitment & Selection:** Extern ensures that all staff and volunteers are carefully selected, trained and supervised to provide a safe environment for all children and young people. Processes include interview, professional references and Garda vetting.

**Core Training & Practice Development:** Extern recognises the need for Continued Professional Development and ensuring that all staff and volunteers are kept up to date with best practice in the area of child safeguarding and the delivery of quality services. All staff are provided with training in the following topics; Children First, Child Protection, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Risk Management, Lone-Working and First Aid. Staff are required to attend refresher courses to ensure any new best practice developments are communicated and also ensure existing skills are further enhanced.

Complaints & Allegations: Extern ensure service users are aware of our complaints processes, including the relevant contact person. Our Child Safeguarding Policy outlines the steps to be taken in the instance of allegations of abuse against staff or volunteers. In addition Extern has a range of policies in place to minimise the risk of abuse occurring including: Lone-Working Policy, Transport Policy, Residential Policy, Garda Vetting Policy and Risk Assessment Procedures.

Reporting & Relevant Persons: Extern provide all services with written instructions in regards to the process for reporting concerns of abuse. This includes the contact details of the agencies to be informed and also includes a list of the Extern Designated Liaison Persons and Child Protection Monitor. A visual chart is displayed in each office outlining the reporting procedure.

### **Risk Register and Assessment**

Extern recognises through our provision of services, children and young people are regularly in contact with the Professional Adults whom we recruit to provide the support services. In addition Extern recognises that through provision of group based activities, children and young people who have a range of individual risks and needs are meeting each other via these organised events. As a result Extern acknowledges that this creates the potential for children and young people to be exposed to harm. In order to ensure risk minimisation, Extern has included this in the organisations risk register, and also developed a risk assessment framework to capture potential risks and risk minimisation strategies.

### **Implementation**

Extern recognise that implementation is an on-going process. The Extern Organisation is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm, while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding statement will be reviewed in February 2019 or as soon as practicable after there has been material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Mack', written over a faint circular outline.

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

Extern CEO

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Referenced policies and risk assessment available upon request.