



## Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI) Child Safeguarding Statement

### **1. Name of service being provided:**

MDI provides a range of support services to children, young people and their families with neuromuscular conditions through our youth support services, family support services, assisted living services, holiday service and transport service. Support offered through our youth support services includes youth club activities, social outings, home visits and overnight breaks. These services operate across the Republic of Ireland and are provided in family homes, schools and community settings.

### **2. Nature of the service & principles to safeguard children from harm:**

MDI's youth work is purposeful, needs-led and outcomes-focused to help children and young people grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

MDI is a child centred organisation and is committed to keeping children safe from harm. The safety, welfare and development of children are of paramount importance and key priorities to MDI. Everyone in MDI has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure each child/young person availing of our services is safe and protected from all types of harm and abuse. Including and not limited to emotional/physical/sexual abuse or neglect. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of Childhood:** Importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone in MDI.
- **Requirements of the Child:** All children's experiences should be guided by what is in the best interests of the child. This means that MDI staff interacting with children should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal requirements of children and young people.
- **Integrity in Relationships:** Adults interacting with children in MDI are in a position of power and trust. They should also ensure children are treated with integrity and respect and the self-esteem of children and young people is enhanced.

- **Equality:** All Children should be valued and treated in an equably and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background and political persuasion.
- **Quality Atmosphere and Ethos:** Children services/activities must be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

MDI has a “NO TOLERANCE” approach to any forms of abuse.

### 3. Risk Assessment

MDI have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child or young person while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
1	Staff recruitment and selection	HR Recruitment Policies & Procedures
2	Induction and training of personnel working with children	HR Recruitment Policies & Procedures Mandatory Children’s First Awareness Training Standard Operating Procedures setting training requirements & standards
3	Safeguarding awareness among all MDI Personnel	Child Protection Policy, Code of behaviour for working with children Standard Operational Procedures for implementing the policy
4	Communications	Implementation of Safeguarding standards, procedures and protocols to all stakeholders Child friendly version of policies being made available too children and parents Photography policy Social Media Policy
5	Reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns	Child Protection Policy providing protocol for reporting concerns Child Protection policy communicated to all MDI personnel and readily available through MDI SharePoint
6.	Complaints	Customer Care Policy including formal procedures for reporting and responding to

		complaints
7.	Ensuring Safe Services	<p>Standard operating manuals in place setting out the requirements for working with Children including ratios, gender balance, trips &amp; travel accommodation use of facilities etc.</p> <p>Code of behaviour for working with children provides clear instruction and guidance for a wide range of scenarios</p> <p>Communication process in place ensuring all personnel are informed of their responsibilities when working with children.</p> <p>Line management in place ensuring support and supervision of personnel working with children</p>

#### 4. Procedures

Our 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:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- 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;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. MDI has appointed a staff to be the first point of contact for this CSS.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

#### 5. Implementation

The Senior Management Team is responsible for ensuring the policies and procedures outlined in this CSS are in place and operating effectively. We recognise that implementation is an on-going 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

**For further information:**

Please contact Ashling Kennedy, MDI Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Safeguarding Children (Relevant MDI person for the Child Safeguarding Statement) on [headofservices@mdi](mailto:headofservices@mdi) or 0868511207

MDI Deputy Liaison Person (DLP) for Safeguarding Children is MDI CEO, Elaine McDonnell, [CEO@mdi.ie](mailto:CEO@mdi.ie) or 086 1408421

Signed:

  
CEO, Elaine McDonnell

Date:

  
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