



Policy Name	Child Safeguarding Statement spunout	Policy Number	SG02-SP
Effective Date	11th March 2018	Owner	BOD
Related Policies	SG01-SP Child Safeguarding Policy spunout SG02-SP Child Safeguarding Statement spunout SG04 Garda Vetting Policy		

Version History		
Version	Description of Change(s)	Approval Date
A	New version of policy created	March 2018
B	Updates to policy	October 2020
C	Numerous changes made to update DLP changes, and to update general information for 2022	November 2022

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide an overview of the measures that the organisation has in place to ensure that children are protected from harm.

#### Scope

This guidance may require further consideration and will be reviewed on a regular basis. All managers are responsible for monitoring implementation of this guidance. All staff members are responsible for familiarising themselves with the terms of this guidance and for adhering to them.



## **SpunOut Child Safeguarding Statement Effective October 2022**

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Children First Act 2015, the spunout Child safeguarding statement (CSS) has been circulated to all staff, Action Panel and Board members. The CSS is publicly available to our service users, their parents and guardians, to Tusla and any interested parties on the Spunout website. A hard copy of the CCS and its accompanying child protection policies and procedures are available on request.

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

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

spunout is Ireland's youth information website created by young people, for young people. We provide information to more than 140,000 active readers each month.. Our vision is to help create an Ireland where young people aged between 16 and 25 are empowered with the information they need to live happy and healthy lives. spunout takes its direction about the information needs of our readership from our Action Panel of 130 young people.

As an organisation dedicated to the wellbeing of young people, SpunOut is committed to ensuring that all young people, and specifically children under the age of 18 years, are safe from harm while availing of our services.

There are a variety of ways in which children and young people are involved with and/or receive Spunout services. These include through:

- Action Panel activities, such as working sessions and residential;
- Youth engagements (talks, outreach, training sessions and workshops);
- Mentoring programmes;
- Involvement at launches, fundraisers and events;
- Work experience placements;
- Communications via phone, internet and social media
- YiChat

spunout's interaction with children and young people adheres to the following guiding principles:

- The best interests of children and young people are central to the ethos and work of Spunout and we are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who avails of our service;
- The safety and welfare of children and young people are of paramount importance;
- Children and young people have the right to be protected from harm, including but not limited to assault, ill-treatment, neglect, or abuse of any kind.
- Children and young people have a right to be heard, listened to, treated with respect and taken seriously;
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights of parents/guardians/carers to be consulted and involved in matters concerning their family, while understanding that where a conflict arises, the safety of the child comes first;



- The measures we have in place to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (DCYA, 2017), *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure* (Tusla, 2018) and the *Children First Act 2015*.
- Our guiding principles apply to all staff, volunteers, Board members and students on work placement within our organisation;
- All Board members, staff, volunteers and students must abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child protection policies and procedures;
- Child protection is a standing issue on the Board of Community Creations..
- We will review our CSS and accompanying child protection policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary;
- The designated liaison person (DLP) and deputy DLP for ensuring that our child protection and safeguarding procedures are followed are:

<b>DLP:</b> Eibhlin McNamara (086) 128 7179 eibhlin@text50808.ie	<b>Deputy:</b> Tara Logan Buckley (086) 127 5047 tara@text50808.ie
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- In the event of the DLP role becoming vacant, the Deputy DLP will act in their place until a new DLP can be appointed; this will take place as soon as possible. The organisation will endeavour at all times to have both a DLP and Deputy DLP in place; and any vacancy must be reported to the Board of Directors. As far as possible, Community Creations will work to ensure an outgoing DLP or Deputy DLP can be replaced on the same day they formally leave that position.

### 3. Risk assessment:

As a relevant service under the Children First Act 2015, and in accordance with section 11(1)(a), spunout has undertaken an assessment of any risk/potential for **harm** to a child while availing of our service.

'Harm' is defined under section 2 of the Act as:

"Harm means in relation to a child -

- (a) Assault, ill treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or,
- (b) Sexual abuse of the child

Whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise"

Below is a list of risks identified and a corresponding list of the measures in place to manage and mitigate against them.

Risk Identified	Who is Responsible?	Measures in place to manage the risk
<p><b>Engagement with children</b></p> <p>Harm caused to a child while engaged with spunout by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a fellow service user</li> <li>• staff, Action Panel or Board member</li> <li>• volunteer or intern</li> <li>• unauthorised persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead person with responsibility for the relevant work with children. For example, Engagement and Participation Officer and Outreach and Training Officer.</li> <li>• DLP</li> <li>• Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Garda Vetting Policy</li> <li>• Induction process for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> <li>• Guidance on travel and residentials</li> </ul>
<p>Harm caused to a child through engagement in spunout communications whether online, social media, by phone, or in person with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a fellow service user</li> <li>• staff, Action Panel or Board member</li> <li>• volunteer or intern</li> <li>• unauthorised persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and Participation Officer</li> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Garda Vetting Policy</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Social Media Policy</li> </ul>
<p>Harm caused to a child through engagement with a third-party service or opportunity signposted to or partnered with spunout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead person with responsibility for the relevant signposting or partnership</li> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spunout conducts thorough vetting of any youth service or opportunity it signposts children and young people to either online or in any fashion.</li> </ul>
<p>Inappropriate recording, including photography and filming of children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead person with responsibility for the relevant work with children. For example, Online Content Producer and Multimedia producer</li> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Induction process for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> </ul>
<p>Lack of understanding and awareness of CSS and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLP</li> <li>• Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> </ul>

accompanying child protection policies and procedures.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Induction process for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> </ul>
Inadequate supervision of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead person with responsibility for the relevant work with children. For example, Engagement and Participation Officer and Outreach and Training Officer.</li> <li>• DLP</li> <li>• Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> <li>• Action Panel Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting Procedures</b>		
Absence of reporting procedure, including appointment of a DLP and Deputy DLP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLP</li> <li>• Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> </ul>
Concerns of reasonable grounds and harm not reported appropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff with reporting concern</li> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> </ul>
Lack of understanding and awareness of reporting procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLP</li> <li>• Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Induction process for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training.</li> </ul>

<b>Recruitment &amp; Selection</b>		
Recruitment of inappropriate staff, Action Panel, Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe recruitment procedures</li> </ul>

members, volunteers or interns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated staff member for Garda vetting</li> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• Reference checks</li> <li>• Garda Vetting</li> <li>• Probationary period</li> <li>• Action Panel Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
Lack of understanding and awareness amongst staff of potential risk of harm to children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and supervision</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures</li> <li>• Induction process for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> </ul>
Lack of, or unclear, understanding of appropriate engagement with children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and supervision</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Induction Policy for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Attendance at child protection training</li> </ul>
<b>Allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers</b>		
Lack of procedures for handling allegations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Procedure for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers relating to a child availing of our service</li> </ul>

#### 4. Procedures

Our CSS has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (DCYA, 2017) and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure* (Tusla, 2018). In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following child protection policies, procedures and measures are in place to support our safeguarding commitment to children who avail of our service:

- A Relevant Person has been appointed;
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed;
- Child Protection Policy;
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures;



- Procedure for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers relating to a child availing of our service;
- Confidentiality Policy;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Garda Vetting Policy, which has been updated to vet staff members who have direct contact with young people within the organisation;
- All staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First*
- Staff and Board have attended child protection training;
- Code of behaviour for staff and volunteers;
- Induction process (which includes procedures to inform new staff and volunteers about the CSS and accompanying child protection policies and procedures);
- Incidents Procedure;
- Complaints Policy;

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 CSS and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

The spunout CSS will be reviewed every year, or sooner if there has been a material change in any of the issues to which it refers.

Signed:

Date: 29th March 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tara Doyle".

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Tara Doyle  
Chairperson of Spunout

**For further information on this Statement, contact our Relevant Person:**

Eibhlin McNamara  
0861287179  
eibhlin@text50808.ie