

## Anna Newell Child Safeguarding Statement 2020

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

I am an individual artist who creates child-centred theatre adventures such as performances and workshops for children and young people of all ages and all abilities. Other artists, creative staff, administrative staff and performers may be employed on short-term contracts on my projects. I am committed to a child led approach to my work with children and young people. I undertake to provide a safe environment and experience where the welfare of the child and young person is paramount and to ensure that staff or volunteers on any of my projects contribute to this environment.

As a freelance theatremaker, I value children, and always consider their welfare, enjoyment and comfort when planning any activities that I undertake that interact directly or indirectly with children and/or young people. I strive to develop children's self-esteem, encourage each child to contribute to, and participate in activities, and reward their efforts as well as their achievements. My methodology places the children at the very heart of the work which is informed and inspired by them.

### STATEMENT OF CONTEXT FOR MY SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND POLICY

Within the scope of the relevant TUSLA guidelines, my work falls under the definition of "relevant services" under the following heading:

*Any work or activity which involves providing:*

- » *Educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children*

As an individual theatre-maker, I do not qualify as a 'relevant' service unless I employ other people. As I do this on an occasional and time-limited contract basis, on these occasions I do qualify as a 'relevant service' and, as a result of this and to achieve best practice, I have created this statement.

Often, I create productions and projects in partnership with other organisations/venues. In these instances, it is the producing partner who will contract my collaborating artists/performers/etc and I commit to ensuring that the project operates within their relevant policies and procedures and liaising where appropriate with their Designated Persons.

The Civic Theatre, Tallaght has a regular producing partner for over 2 years and continues to be; and therefore I have developed this Statement and my Child Safeguarding Policy to align both with the TUSLA guidelines and with their own policies and procedures.

### **Policies and Procedures**

I commit to adhering to the recommendations of Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, published by the Department of Health and Children(2017)and the Child First Act (2015) in line with Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

My policy declaration applies to all performers and fellow artists employed on short-term contracts on my projects and any volunteers and students on work placement on projects. All of the above must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this statement declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures. I commit to ensuring that my projects, performances, residences should all be a safe, inviting, open, inclusive, professional place for everyone.

### **Review**

I will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every year or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

I believe that the welfare of all children and young people is paramount. All children and have the equal right to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity and everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding children.

This policy applies to all children and young people connecting with myself including as:

- Audiences to my shows
- Creative consultants in the development of these shows
- Participants in my workshops
- Participants on school / community group visits
- Volunteers
- Student placements

### Risk Assessment in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.

I have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending or participating in my projects. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

**The substantial majority of my projects are performances or workshops where parents/guardians are required to be present throughout the project activity. This further minimises risks indicated by an asterisk.**

|    | <b>Risk identified</b>   | <b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Risk of harm not noted by personnel working on my projects   | Introduce all personnel to my Child Safeguarding Policy; roles, reporting procedures and codes of behaviour. Provision of child safeguarding training provided by myself at the beginning of any project.   |
| 2. | Risk of harm not being reported properly or in good time by personnel working on my projects.  | All personnel are made aware of the role of the Relevant Person (myself), and receive training in child safeguarding concerns and levels of concern for reporting.  |
| 3. | Risk of young person being harmed by any personnel working on my projects.   | Safe recruitment procedures involves: Taking all reasonable steps to eliminate people who are not suitable for working with children; and insisting all personnel are Garda vetted. Provide training on my child safeguarding policy. All personnel to read and sign my code of behaviour policy for adults. All personnel made aware that they should never allow themselves to be left alone with a child.* |
| 4. | Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person.  | My policy outlines what constitutes bullying and harassment, who to make a complaint to and what action the company will take in dealing with an offence of this nature.*   |
| 5. | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people.  | Always having two adults present during events when parents/guardians are not present.*   |
| 6. | Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between adult personnel and a young person.   | Adults will never be alone with a child either in the building or to give a lift to a child in a car.*  |
| 7. | Risk of harm caused by personnel communicating with young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. | Adults will NEVER communicate on a 1-1 basis with a child either by text, email or social media.*   |
| 8. | Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people.   | Images of any child or young person participating in any activities will not be used for any reason without the consent of the parent/caregiver which will be attained by written signed consent.   |

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| 9. | Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data. | No data is disclosed to any third party and remains confidential. |
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### Implementation

I recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. I am committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support my intention to keep children safe from harm while engaging with my activities either as audience members, as creative consultants or as participants.

This statement has been published on my website. It will be provided to all personnel on contracting. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed:

Date: 01/03/2020

