



Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided

Clinical and Counselling Psychology

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

Leeward Clinical offers clinical and counselling psychology services to children and their families. Our aim is to provide evidence-based interventions in a safe environment with an emphasis on child-centred support. We are committed to continued training in safeguarding as well as adhering to our professional code of conduct (as per the Psychological Society of Ireland) regarding the provision of psychological services to children.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child 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.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk a child becomes upset whilst separated from parent during session	Parents are required to be available nearby at all times during sessions and will be contacted immediately should a child require reassurance or finishing a session early.
2	Risk a child becomes overwhelmed during session/disclosures	Child to be supported in accordance with code of conduct regarding grounding and pacing. Relevant disclosures to be reported as per mandated professional requirements.
3	Risk that child injures themselves coming up/down the stairs to appointments.	All children are required to be accompanied to and from the clinic room door.
4	Risk of child accessing internet.	Children will not be left unsupervised at any time, and no computers/laptops will be available to children in attendance.

5	Risk of child bringing or being exposed to COVID 19 or other infectious illness.	Parents are required to wear face coverings when in attendance. Children are required to follow infection control protocol during attendance which includes hand sanitisation and social distancing. Pre-attendance screening in place for symptoms of COVID 19. Clinic space and equipment to be sanitised in between each session.
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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 professionals of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of professionals 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 in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

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 27/10/21, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  (on behalf of Provider)

Dr. Fiona Weldon
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For queries, please contact Dr. Fiona Weldon, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.