

## Child Safeguarding Statement of Friends of the Earth

This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015.

### Statement

As an environmental NGO that has contact with young people, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people, are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this.

All Friends of the Earth staff who have contact with young people have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

### Commitment to Safeguard Children from Harm

- Friends of the Earth is committed to safeguarding the children and young people we have contact with and to providing a safe environment in which they thrive.
- Our service believes that the welfare of the young people engaging with our service is paramount.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who engages with our organisation, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
- Our procedures 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 2017, the Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- **Designated Liaison Person** for Child Protection is Triona Reid, Outreach Manager.

## **Activities, risks and procedures**

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Friends of the Earth.

It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

### **Activities**

- Networking events for the climate movement under the banner of Climate Connects.
- Facilitating young people to take part in media opportunities: public panels, as audience members on tv shows, radio shows.
- Training for young people on various campaigning skills.
- Supporting young people’s efforts in logistical preparation for large-scale events
- Hosting online calls with youth climate activists
- Delivering workshops to young people in schools

### **Risks**

- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.
- Risk of young person being harmed by a member of staff or a volunteer in the climate movement.
- Risk of young person being harmed in by another young.
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people at FOE event.

- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between young person and another young person or adult.
- Risk of harm due to adults engaging inappropriately with young people online via FOE platforms, social media etc.
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour

## **Procedures**

The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff who will have contact with young people, FOE adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. All relevant staff who are already employed by FOE are Garda Vetted.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) Friends of the Earth has
  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all staff have completed Tusla's online child protection training
  - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training

- The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
  
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all FOE personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First Act 2015, including those in relation to mandated reporting.
  
- FOE has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation’s child safeguarding statement.
  
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the organisation has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while engaging with the organisation.
  
- The organisation has a no lone working policy for staff and volunteers to ensure appropriate supervision of young people
  
- The organisation has in place a policy and clear procedures for working relationships formed as part of Climate Connects.
  
- The organisation has a Health and safety policy
  
- The organisation adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
  
- The organisation has a codes of conduct for staff and volunteers engaging with young people.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this organisation and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified.

## Implementation and Review

- Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.
- This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- This statement is published on the service website and is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff. 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: 15/03/2019

**Friends of the Earth Ireland, 9 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.**