



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

May 2018

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CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Name of service and activities provided

The Anne Sullivan Centre (ASC) is a not for profit organisation providing support and services to individuals who are deafblind in Ireland. The ASC provides residential, day, respite and information supports to adults who are deafblind and also provides advocacy and outreach services to both adults and children. The ASC organisational structure is depicted in Figure 1 below:

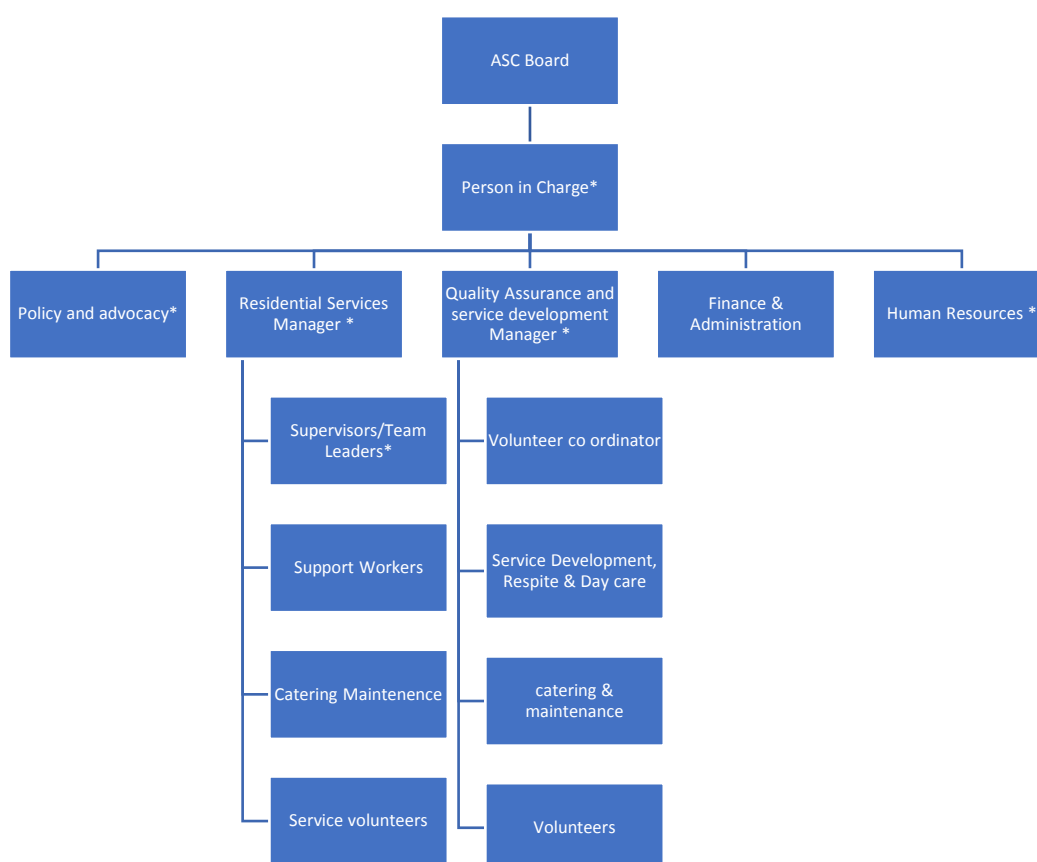


Figure 1: ASC Organisational and management structure.

2. Commitment to safeguard children from harm

- The ASC is committed to safeguarding the children availing of our services and to providing a safe environment in which they can learn and develop.

- The ASC believes that the welfare of the children availing of our service is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
- Our policy and 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.
- Our policy declaration applies to all paid 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 this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy.
- 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.
- There are Designated Officers in place to which suspicions or allegations of abuse can be reported. Please see Table 1 below.

<p>Designated Officer 1 Heather Colson Osborne hcolsonosborne@annesullivancentre.ie 085 7247107</p>	<p>Designated Officer 2 Karen Coleman kacoleman@gmail.com 086 3324612</p>
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Table 1: Designated Officers in the ASC to which allegations or concerns of abuse can be reported.

3. Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the ASC has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in service activities. A summary of the areas covered in the risk assessment meeting can be found in Appendix 1. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised in Table 2 below:

Risk Identified	Policy/Procedure in place to manage
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	risk
One to One teaching	ASC Child Protection Policy ASC Charter of Rights 2016 ASC Comments, Compliments and Comp Policy ASC Policies and Procedures on Communicating with children and adults who are deafblind. ASC Speak up/Protected Disclosures Policy ASC Recruitment and Selection Policy ASC Positive Behaviour Support Policy ASC Lone Working Policy ASC Code of Behaviour
Outdoor activities	<u>In addition to what has already been listed:</u> ASC Safety Statement ASC Risk Management Policy
Outings	<u>In addition to what has already been listed:</u> ASC Policies and Procedures on Missing Persons
Management of challenging behaviour	As above
Administration of first aid	<u>In addition to what has already been above</u> ASC Staff Training and Development Policy
Use of information and communication technology	<u>In addition to what has already been above</u> ASC Email Policy ASC Internet Policy ASC Social Media Policy
Social events	As above
Individual records	<u>In addition to what has already been above:</u> ASC Confidentiality Policy ASC Record Management and Data Protection Policy

Table 2: Risk and risk management regarding child protection

4. Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

As required by the Children First Act, 2015 and the Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place

- Designated Officers have been appointed
- Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
- Confidentiality Policy
- Policy provides information on dealing with allegations of abuse or neglect against employees
- Procedure for managing data and records
- Recruitment Policy
- Garda Vetting Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Induction Policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures)
- Policy on communicating with children and adults who are deafblind
- All staff asked to complete the HSE Land eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Children First Child Protection Training.
- Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the ASC policy.
- Comments, Complaints & Complaints Policy
- ASC Adverse Events and Incident Management Policy
- Social Media Management Policy

Note: *The above is not intended as an exhaustive list.*

5. Implementation and Review

- We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. 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 displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily

accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla or HIQA if requested.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Service Provider's name and contact details:

For further information on this Statement, contact the Designated Officer Heather Colson Osborne. Contact details are on p.4 of this statement.

Appendix 1: Child Protection Risk Assessment

Date of risk assessment: 23-04-18

Present: Deirdre Leech (Deafblind Specialist Consultant), Heather Colson Osborne (Designated Officer), Catherine McDonald (Policy & Advocacy Lead, Grace Kelly Hartnett (CEO)

At this risk assessment meeting, those present listed the activities that the organisation engages in with children, identified the risk of harm in respect of the activities outlined above and identified the procedures in place to address the risks of the harm identified.

Activity	Risk identified	Comments
Classroom teaching	None	Teacher is always present
One to one teaching	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures address the risk
Outdoor activities	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk
Outings	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk
Trips involving overnight stay	No	Not currently offered to children by ASC
Use of toilet/intimate care	No	Outreach workers do not provide intimate supports
Management of challenging behaviour	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk
Administration of First Aid	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk
Administration of medication	No	Outreach workers do not administer medication
Use of ICT	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk
Use of video/photography	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk

Social events	Yes	Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk
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