

A Safe and Welcoming Fellowship

Safeguarding

The protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults

Declaration of guiding principles

- The FOI at the Foundation Centre believe that the best interests of children and vulnerable adults attending our events are paramount. Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedures and Practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, the Criminal Justice (withholding of information on offences against Children and Vulnerable persons) Act 2012, National Vetting Bureau(Children and Vulnerable Adults)Acts 2012-2016, Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003(All legislation is displayed in our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Document). The FOI at the Foundation Centre are committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to ensuring their wellbeing.
- We believe that every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children, whom we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure that our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will have contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Commitment

We are committed to: -

- Following statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults and to compliance with national policy, current legislation and guidance.
- To ensuring that, as a place of gathering, all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- To complying with the guidelines of all relevant legislation as documented in our Safeguarding Policy.
- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.

- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established here.
- Supporting all in our place of gathering who are affected by abuse.

We Recognise:

Tusla Child and Family Agency has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child and the Garda Síochána has lead responsibility for the investigation of suspected criminal offences and allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable Adult.

- Where allegations suggest that a criminal offence may have been committed then the Garda Síochána should be contacted as a matter of urgency.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. As part of this fellowship's commitment to children, young people and vulnerable adults it has appointed Pamela Curry as the Designated Liaison Person and Alison Shelly as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

Our Designated Liaison Person: Pamela Curry

Contact details: circleofbrigid@fellowshipofisis.com phone: 0876422829

Our Deputy Designated Liaison Person is: Alison Shelly

Contact details: circleofbrigid@fellowshipofisis.com phone: 0876422829

This place of gathering is committed to ensuring that everyone working with children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- has been safely recruited,
- is adequately trained and supervised,
- understands and follows the fellowship's safeguarding policy.

We will review our guiding principles and safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

The Safeguarding Policy may be viewed on request, please contact the Circle of Brigid.