**MUNTERCONNAUGHT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**ASSOCIATION CLG**

**SUPPERKIDS**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Munterconnaught Community Development Association clg (the Company) is the registered provider of SuperKids, a preschool for children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years.

SuperKids is classified as providing a sessional service under the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services Regulations 2016). It is open for 38 weeks a year with term times being as close as possible to those of the nearest National School.

The management structure is as follows:

* the Board of the Company Chaired by Noel McEnroe;
* Directors of the Company with responsibility for SuperKids: Caroline Farrelly; Dermot O’Reilly; and John Gilbert;
* Manager, Natasha Murdock.

**Commitment to Safeguarding Children**

* SuperKids is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe and secure environment in which they can play, learn and develop.
* SuperKids firmly believes that the welfare of children attending the service is paramount and is totally committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
* SuperKids is committed to upholding the rights of every chid attending the service, including the rights to be kept safe, protected from harm, listened to and heard.
* SuperKids’ policies and procedures to safeguard children 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, students on placement and directors, all of whom must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and the SuperKids’ Child Protection & Welfare Policy and Procedures.
* SuperKids will review its child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every two years or sooner, if necessary, due to changes in legislation or national policy or service issues.

**Designated Lead Person**

The Designated Lead Person in respect of child protection and welfare for SuperKids is Natasha Murdock.

The Deputy is Valerie Keelaghan.

**Risk Assessment**

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Company has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending SuperKids or participating in any of its activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing those risks is summarised in the Appendix to this Safeguarding Statement.

**Child Safeguarding Policies & Procedures**

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

* procedure to maintain a list of Mandated Persons under the Children First Act 2015;
* a Relevant Person has been appointed;
* a Designated Lead Person and Deputy have been appointed;
* child protection and welfare reporting procedures;
* confidentiality policy;
* policy for dealing with allegations of abuse or neglect against staff;
* policy for managing child protection records;
* recruitment policy;
* garda vetting policy
* code of behaviour for working with children;
* staff induction training (including procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children);
* all staff have completed the Tusla eLearning module – Introduction to Children First and relevant staff have attended Always Children First Child Protection Training;
* staff have access to regular supervision and support in line with the service policy;
* complaints policy;
* policy for managing accidents and emergencies; and
* policy in respect of use of social media, cameras and recording devices.

**Implementation and Review**

* SuperKids recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. SuperKids is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures which support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service;
* This Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Statement refers;
* This Statement has been published on the Company/SuperKids website and is displayed on the Premises of SuperKids. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with SuperKids. It is readily available to parents/guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed:----------------------------------------------------------------------Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Caroline Farrelly, Director

Munterconnaught Community Development Association CLG

Ballydurrow Community Centre

Ballydurrow

Virginia

County Cavan

A82 A306

Email superkids@munterconnaught.ie

**For further information on this Statement, contact Caroline Farrelly, a Director of the Company responsible for the operations of SuperKids at** **superkids@munterconnaught.ie**

**Appendix**

**Risk Assessment**

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| **Risk Identified** | **Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage risk** |
| Appropriate Recruitment of Staff | Recruitment Child Protection |
| Visitors to Service | All visitors are required to sign a visitors register, kept by the manager in the pre-school room |
| Garda Vetting: Staff have not been re-vetted | Our Policy is to ensure that all Staff are Garda Vetted every 2 years |
| Staff Recruitment | Garda Vetting, Verification of References and Induction Meeting. |
| Staff Internet Use | Staff members are aware that any sharing of information or opinion regarding any children/families within our setting will result in a termination of contract. |
| Unauthorised Collection | Our Collection Policy clearly states that only authorised persons, named on Childs Record Card form, can collect any of the children in this setting. |