

St Brigid's Family & Community Centre

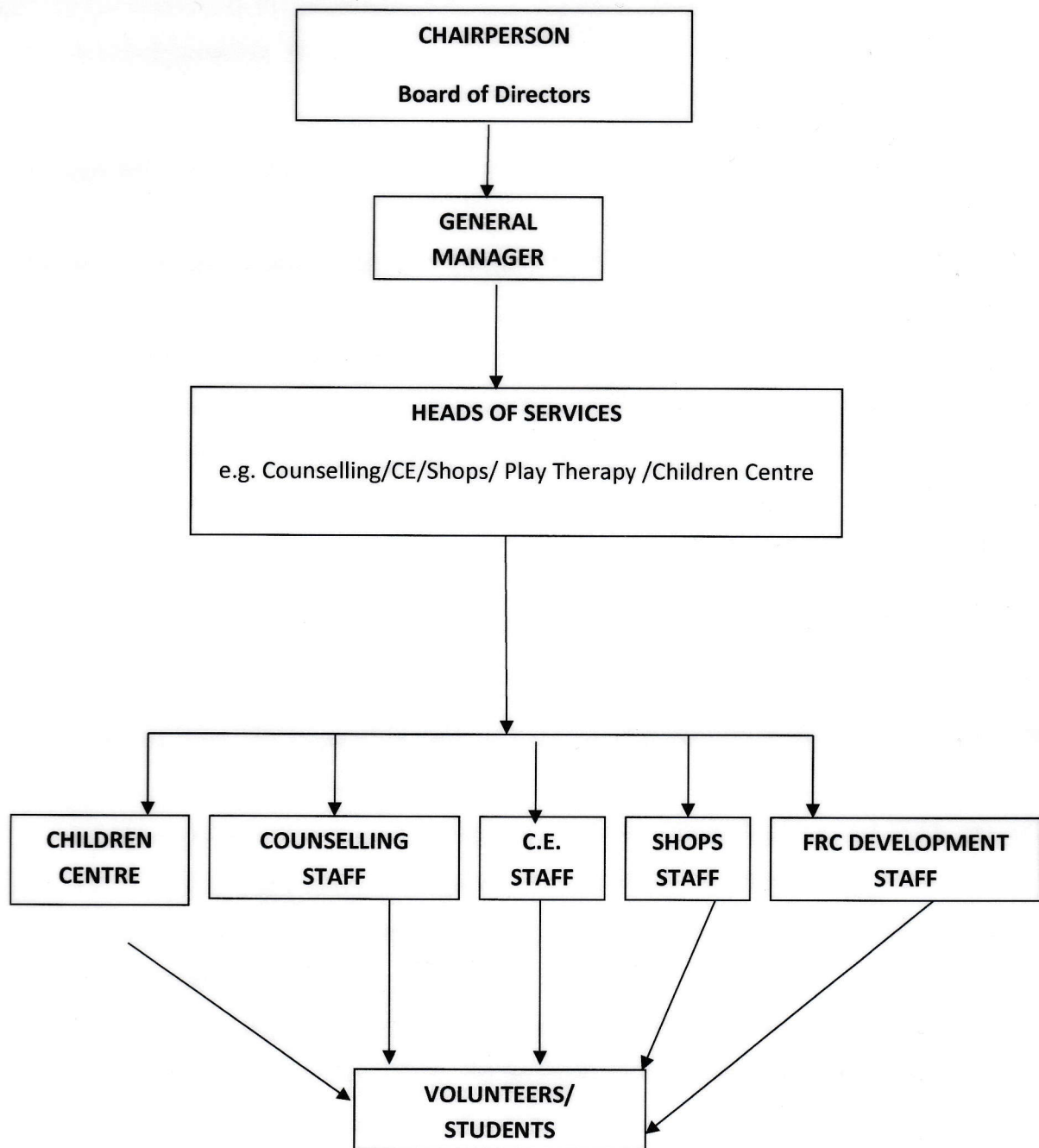
Child Safeguarding Statement

St Brigid's Family & Community Centre recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. All staff and volunteers 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.

St Brigid's provides services to children through:

St Brigid's Family & Community Centre, 37 Lower Yellow Road, Waterford (including Portlaw Community Resource Hub, Co Waterford)	St Brigid's Children Centre, Powersfield, Hennessy's Road, Waterford
Parent & Toddler Groups	Full Day Service 9am -5pm
Play Therapy	Part Time Morning Service 9am -12.45pm
Adolescent Counselling	Part Time Afternoon Service 1.45pm – 5.30pm
Intergenerational Project	Sessional Pre-school Service 9am – 12noon
Parenting Supports	Afterschool Service 1.45pm – 5.15pm
Occasional social/community events	Out of school camps 9.15pm – 3.30pm

The Management Structure is as follows: please see next page



Child Safeguarding Statement

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Board of Directors of St Brigid's has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Gerardine Lanigan
- 2 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is (Deputy DLP) – to be filled as soon as possible
- 3 The Board of Directors recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of community life and must be reflected in all of the Centres policies, procedures, practices and activities In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, St Brigid's will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

St Brigid's will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- develop a practice of openness with parents & encourage parental involvement in the services of St Brigid's.
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

4 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, St Brigid's adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars. All staff and volunteers who work directly with children are vetted in advance of starting their work in St Brigid's.
- 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) St Brigid's will
 - provide each member of staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ensure all new staff are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ensure every staff member completes the online introduction to children first and completes certification
 - encourage Board of Directors members to avail of relevant training
 - maintain records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all St Brigid's staff are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First. For mandated staff they have to report concerns to Tusla either on their own or with the DLP - Gerardine Lanigan.
- In St Brigids, the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending St Brigid's or any of it's services. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the centre's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.

- 5 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Directors on 25/5/18
[date].

Signed: Geraldine Falconer

Chairperson of Board of Directors

Signed: Michelle O'Brien

Secretary to the Board of Directors

Date: 25/5/18

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