

Oberstown Children Detention Campus

Child Safeguarding Statement

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Oberstown Children Detention Campus Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Service: Oberstown Children Detention Campus.¹

Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm: Oberstown Children Detention Campus (Oberstown) is a Place of Detention for young persons referred by a Court aged from 12 to 18 years². It is the principal aim of Oberstown Children Detention Campus under **s 158 of the Children Act 2001** to provide appropriate educational and training programmes for children referred to the Campus by a Court and to promote their reintegration into society as persons who are capable of making a positive and productive contribution to society.³

This must be achieved by having regard to young people's health, safety, welfare, interests; providing them with proper care, guidance and supervision; preserving and developing young people's relationships with their families; exercising proper moral and disciplinary influences on young people and recognising their personal, cultural and linguistic identity.⁴

Risk Assessment:

Oberstown has a dedicated health and safety team and a Deputy Director with responsibility for Risk Management. A Campus Operational and a Campus Strategic Risk Register are maintained and reviewed in which risks are assessed using a risk assessment matrix. The most recent versions are March 2019. These include assessment of risks to young persons on the campus and lists mitigation strategies/management controls in place to address these risks.

Risk:

This section outlines identified risks in Oberstown and the measures – including training, services and interventions – in place to manage them.

Suicide/Self Harm: The Assessment Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS) Team, The National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS), STORM4 ongoing training on Campus. Case Management System includes key working with young people Individual Crisis Management Plans, Placement Planning Meetings, information gathering tools. Other measures include the Hoffmann knife, contraband controls and night supervision. Admission procedure that includes use of MAYSI screening tool.

Medical Emergency: Campus medical team, Staff trained in First Aid, Resuscitation equipment including defibrillators on site.

Physical Assault/Violence: MAPA (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression) behavioural management training, staff training in child protection and safeguarding, personal alarms for staff, transporting protocols, CCTV coverage, controls around interaction of young persons.

Physical Restraint: MAPA (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression) behavioural management training, staff training in child protection and safeguarding, Personal alarms for staff, CCTV coverage. Health and Safety reviews of incidents. AIR process. Incoming items: screening equipment and searches of incoming items.

¹ Oberstown is a "Relevant Service" under Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015.

² See 158 of the Children Act, 2001.

³ S 180 of the Children Act, 2001.

⁴ <http://www.stormskillstraining.com/>

Psychological Harm: MAYSI screening⁵, ACTS service, NFMHS on-site support, round-the-clock monitoring of young persons. AIR process, placement planning process and STORM intervention.

Mental Health Issues: MAYSI screening, ACTS service, NFMHS on-site support, round-the-clock monitoring of young persons. AIR process, placement planning process and STORM intervention.

Drugs/Contraband: Regular urine testing, screened visits, searches/readmission process following external mobility, monitoring of young persons under the influence of substances, medical team support, and prosecution of visitors who supply contraband. Screening equipment, handover/briefing to Gardaí and undertaking escorts to/from Campus.

External Threat: All visits and external mobility trips are risk assessed, screened visits, court escorts, use of two cell white van(staff and Gardaí), and information on external threat or history of aggression informs decisions around mixing young persons on campus. Detailed liaison with Irish Prison Service regarding young people transferring.

Accidental Injury: Health and Safety team audit investigation and oversight, campus medical team, staff trained in First Aid, resuscitation equipment including defibrillators on site.

Policies and Procedures:

The Oberstown Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under **the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)**, and **Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice**. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Safeguarding policy & procedure
- Care policy
- Complaints policy & procedure
- Health policy
- Dignity & privacy policy
- Single separation policy and procedure
- Anti-bullying policy
- Medication management policy & procedure
- Information management policy
- Handcuff policy & procedure
- Young persons also have access to EPIC advocacy service and the Ombudsman for Children who visit the campus regularly
- Fire and Evacuation Plan
- Campus Emergency Plan

- Emergency Services attendance on Campus
- Procedure for supporting young people presenting with self harm
- Court escort procedures
- Campus Driving SOP
- Appointment of Advocacy Officer to deal with young people complaints and participation of young people in Campus life.

⁵ MAYSI is a screening tool for mental health needs in youth in justice settings.

Implementation:

Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is for review on 31 March 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed by provider:

Pat Bergin, Director



For queries, please contact Lena Timoney, Deputy Director, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.