

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ref No. YP-032-PR

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Department	Care
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Approved by:	Director
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1. Introduction

1.1. Name of Service

Oberstown Children Detention Campus

1.2. 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 years. 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.

This must be achieved by having due 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 .

Oberstown Children Detention Campus provides care in accordance with our CEHOP model.

2. Risk Assessment

Oberstown has a dedicated health and safety team, and while risk management is currently shared with the Senior Management Team, the appointment of a Head of Risk is imminent. A Campus Corporate Risk Register and a Campus Operational Risk Register is maintained and reviewed on a regular basis by the SMT and the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Management. The risks are assessed using a 5 x 5 risk assessment matrix and the registers include 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.

2.1. Suicide/Self Harm

The Assessment Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS) Team, The National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS), staff trained in STORMV4 on Campus. Key working with young people including Behaviour Support Plans, Individual Recovery Programmes, Placement Planning Meetings and information gathering procedures and key working. Other measures include LC1 Ligature Cutter, contraband controls, night supervision, the use of the Protection Room for monitoring and round-the-clock monitoring of young persons.

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/>

2.2. Medical Emergency

Campus medical team, Staff trained in First Aid, Resuscitation equipment including defibrillators on site, staff with personal alarms and radio alerts.

2.3. Physical Assault/Violence

Safety Intervention behavioural management training, staff training in child protection and safeguarding, personal alarms for staff, transporting protocols, CCTV coverage, ongoing risk assessment and controls around interaction of young persons, searching protocols to reduce risk of weapons. Critical Incident Management Training.

2.4. Physical Restraint

Safety Intervention behavioural management training, physical restraint only used as last resort, Behaviour Support Plans, Individual Recovery Programmes, staff training in child protection and safeguarding, Personal alarms for staff, CCTV coverage, Review of incidents by Safety Intervention Team, Health & Safety Team and DLP for Child Protection as appropriate. Information shared in daily Site Manager Reports and IAA (Incidents, Accidents, and Assaults) notifications.

2.5. Internet Use

Young persons' internet access is very limited and is always supervised by staff. No access to social media is permitted. Young persons are not allowed access to personal communication devices.

2.6. Psychological Harm

ACTS service, FCAMHS on-site support, round-the-clock monitoring of young persons, staff trained in STORMV4.

2.7. Mental Health Issues

ACTS service, FCAMHS on-site support, round-the-clock monitoring of young persons, staff trained in STORMV4.

2.8. Drugs/Contraband

Regular urine testing, screened visits, searches/readmission process following external mobility, room searches, monitoring of young persons under the influence of substances and medical team support. An X-Ray scanner is available for screening for contraband. External services working with young persons with drug issues. Oberstown reports any visitors who supply contraband to An Garda Síochána.

2.9. External Threat

All visits and external trips are risk assessed, screened visits, court escorts (staff and Gardaí), and information on external threat or history of aggression informs decisions around mixing young persons on campus. Use of specialist vehicles for higher risk court trips.

2.10. Accidental Injury

Health and safety team oversight, campus medical team, staff trained in First Aid, resuscitation equipment including defibrillators on site. Review of Incidents by Health & Safety Team. Information shared in Site Manager Daily Log and IAA (Incidents, Accidents, and Assaults) notifications. Comprehensive Fire Prevention Systems and procedures are in place.

3. 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:

- Children Rights Policy Framework
- Safeguarding procedure
- Care procedures
- Complaints procedure
- Medical procedures
- Single separation procedure
- Medication management policy & procedure
- Information management policy
- Handcuff procedure
- CCTV Policy
- CDSU Garda Vetting Policy and Procedures
- Fire Safety Policy and Procedures
- Young persons also have access to EPIC advocacy service and the Ombudsman for Children who visit the campus regularly
- A full time Advocacy Officer is available to support all young persons.

4. 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 was reviewed in March 2023 and is due for review on 31st March 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed by provider:



Damien Herson, Director

For queries, please contact Brian Hogan, Deputy Director and Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.