



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT 2018

South Dublin Therapy (SDT) is committed to protecting children from harm. This organisation recognises that the welfare of children is paramount and our service endeavours to safeguard children. SDT aims to create a safe and healthy environment for the young people with whom we work and we are committed at all times to ensure the safety and welfare of children.

SDT operates within the Children's First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children. SDT believes in promoting the general welfare, health, development and safety of children. The welfare of children is of paramount importance.

SDT provides family therapy for children, adolescents, vulnerable adults and parents / guardians in relation to a wide ranging number of presenting issues. SDT provides therapy to children up to (and including) eighteen years old, who present with a variety of issues from a wide range of referral sources including but not limited to self-referral, GP, Hospital, community psychiatric services, Tusla, HSE the Courts, solicitors and other counselling and therapeutic services.

Risk assessment: We have reviewed our policies and procedures to identify any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. The following is a list of the risks identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Identified Risk	Procedures
Risk of harm not being recognised by an SDT therapist.	Supervision is required for all therapists.
Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by an SDT therapist.	Designated Liaison Person identified and known to all therapists. All SDT therapists must complete Tusla's E-learning course on 'Children First' All therapists, are made aware of their duty to report concerns or disclosures of abuse that they receive in the course of their duties to SDT's Designated Liaison Person.



Risk of child being harmed on the premises by an SDT therapist.	Recruitment policies are in place and Garda Vetting mandatory for all therapists. Procedure in place for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against an SDT therapist by a child availing of our service.
Risk of child being harmed on the premises by another service user or visitor to the premises.	As per the information provided to all service users at their initial session, the supervision of children is the responsibility of parents/guardians. With parent/guardian consent, the child wait in reception for a short period).

Procedures

SDT's 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 procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service.

SDT Child Protection Policies include:

- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- A code of behaviour for all therapists.
- A safe recruitment procedure.
- A procedure to respond to complaints.
- Have a Designated Liaison Person.
- Provide support for therapists in contact with children.
- Share information about the child protection policy and good practices with families and children.
- Reviewing SDT's child protection policy and practices on a regular basis



SOUTH DUBLIN
therapy

BRUCE SLEEMAN *Psychotherapist*

Hdip Psychology, MSc in Systemic Psychotherapy, accredited by FTAI

083 871 5557

Individuals, Couples, Families, Adolescents

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. 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 will be reviewed on/by 5th April 2020 (created 5th April 2018), or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Designated Liaison Person:

Bruce Sleeman
Manager
South Dublin Therapy
35a Johnstown Road
Cabinteely
Dublin 18
083 8715557
bruce@southdublintherapy.ie