

## SVP NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

SVP provides educational and recreational activities and services to children under 18 years of age nationally through our network of Regions and local Conferences.

SVP is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of our national safeguarding policies and procedures. Our members, non-member volunteers and staff are committed to creating a safe environment for children and young people to grow and develop.

Each SVP Children's Activity or Service will conduct a specific written risk assessment and child safeguarding statement in line with Children First Act 2015, Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, NVB Act 2012 and 2016, Children First Guidance 2017 and Tusla Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement. Children First Guidelines 2017 and Tusla Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement.

The written risk assessment indicates the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to alleviate the risks.

Risks are identified in the following categories:

- Recruitment and selection;
- Reporting procedures;
- Conduct of volunteers, employees;
- Technology and social media;
- Overnight and residential trips;
- General risk of harm;

In addition to service specific risk assessments the following procedures are in place throughout SVP as part of our safeguarding policies and procedures:

- Procedures for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct by volunteers or employees against a child availing of our services.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers or employees to work with children in our services.
- Procedures to access child safeguarding training, including the identification and reporting of harm.

- Procedures for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.

SVP recognises that implementation is an ongoing process – we are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm.

Each children's service or activity will complete a risk assessment and specific safeguarding statement and submit to SVP Regional President who will submit to SVP NMC for compliance purposes.

The Relevant Person for our National Child Safeguarding Statement is:

Michael Mc Cann (Member of SVP National Management Council and SVP trustee)

The National Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on:

11<sup>th</sup> March 2020