



Name of service being provided:

Lakewood Athletic FC provides football activities and opportunities for young people through participation in our club, participation in local leagues and regional and national competitions. We are a relevant service as defined in the Children First Act 2015.

Nature of Service

Lakewood Athletic FC provides the following services to children and their families

- Provide opportunities for young people of the community to become involved in Football.
- To support all teams within the club playing at the highest grades available to them
- To promote and encourage social activity.
- Foster a culture of fair play among its members.
- To provide for its members a culture of good governance, facilities and organisation

Commitment to safeguard children from harm

- Our club is fully committed to the safeguarding of every child's welfare while they are using our services and providing a safe environment where their development is promoted.
- Our club believes that the welfare of the children using our service is paramount.
- We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm.
- Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that the child's engagement with our services will be free from harm, neglect or abuse.
- The key principle which underpins this Safeguarding Statement is that the **safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.**
- *The Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection is-Mr Gary O' Brien (0870683586)*

Our child safeguarding policies and procedures apply to all paid staff, volunteers, Committee members within our organisation. All Committee members, staff and volunteers must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this Safeguarding Statement and our child safeguarding policy and all other policies associated with our club.

Where harm or neglect is believed or suspected to be occurring, it is our policy to work in cooperation with statutory agencies, namely Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, and An Garda Síochana, to ensure protection of the child. It is our aim to protect vulnerable children at all times.



We have developed this Safeguarding Statement in line with requirements under the Children First Act, 2015, Children First National Guidance, 2017 and Tusla's Guide for Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement, 2017.

We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies annually, or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

4.Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. (See Appendix 1). Our Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified are contained in the following categories:

- Club and Coaching Practices
- Complaints & Discipline
- Reporting Procedures
- Use of Facilities
- Recruitment
- Communications; General Risk of Harm.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our Club 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 the 1st April 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ (Club Chairperson)
JOE DILLON

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Child Liaison Officer)
GARY O' BRIEN

Date: _____

For queries regarding this statement, please contact Gary O' Brien, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.