

## Blue Teapot Theatre Company

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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**Location:** Blue Teapot Theatre, Munster Avenue, Galway

As part of the Principal Agent Agreement between the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland (Principal) and Blue Teapot Theatre Company (Agent), we adhere to the specific Brothers of Charity Services Ireland policies and procedures including Child Safeguarding Statement.

### **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm**

Blue Teapot Theatre Company (Blue Teapot) is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of children who participate in and are supported by our arts programmes. The core values of Blue Teapot are the dignity and humanity of each individual person. Our service is committed to a deep sense of respect for the personal dignity of each child who is participate in our arts programmes.

We consider our members of staff, tutors and volunteers to be our greatest resources. In our daily work, we seek to provide a supportive and caring environment to ensure the physical and emotional wellbeing of children who participate in our community theatre workshop & Outreach programmes.

### **Our services involving children are:**

**Sparkle:** Community Theatre Programme for teenagers aged 12-17 with intellectual disabilities, some of whom may also have physical or mental health needs.

**Fairy Tree:** Theatre production for children aged 6 -12, performed for schools & the public, incorporating theatre workshops for children with & without intellectual disabilities.

### **PROCEDURES**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the **Children First Act 2015**, the Children First: *National Guidance*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

Our Principal Agent Agreement with Brothers of Charity Services Ireland - West Region (BOCSI) supports us by providing policies and access to:

- **Mandated Persons:** List available from BOCSI 091-721400
- **Full Time Designated Officers (Relevant Person) Shauna O'Boyle**
- **Deputy Designated Officer Michael Flood.**

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, Blue Teapot adopts the following policies that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- BOCSI National Policy Procedure -The Welfare Protection of Children
- Staff Recruitment Policy & Garda Vetting
- Recruiting and Supporting Volunteers

*All policies listed are available upon request.*

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our programme. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing these risks.

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
<b>Abuse</b>	<p>Blue Teapot has in place a Principal Agent Agreement with Brothers of Charity Services Ireland - West Region (BOCSI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All staff, tutors and any project facilitators have completed Children First Training (online HSEland).</li> <li>▪ Procedure in place to manage risk identified training and information, including identification of the occurrence of harm.</li> <li>▪ A full time Designated Officer is in place at BOCSI of which we have access.</li> <li>▪ All staff are aware of who this relevant person(s) is and how to contact them at their offices.</li> <li>▪ A list of Mandated Persons is maintained &amp; available via BOCSI.</li> <li>▪ Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff, tutors and volunteers to work with children is in place.</li> <li>▪ Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers &amp; volunteers of a child availing of our service is in place.</li> <li>▪ A national policy outlining procedure for reporting of child protection concerns to Tulsa is in place.</li> </ul>

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedures in place to manage risk identified</b>
<b>Environmental Risks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health and Safety Statement.</li> <li>▪ Fire Safety Guidelines &amp; evacuation in evidence in public areas of building.</li> <li>▪ Regular fire drills are carried out in all areas which children receive a service. Staff, tutors &amp; volunteers are fully aware of the evacuation procedures and drills</li> <li>▪ Any equipment use in arts activities i.e. props or games used by children is regularly maintained.</li> <li>▪ Emergency plans are in place.</li> <li>▪ BOSCI Risk Management - National Policy and Local Operational Procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Staffing, Tutors &amp; Volunteers.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allocation of staffing &amp; tutors is based on numbers &amp; needs of participant children.</li> <li>▪ Numbers participating in programmes are restricted &amp; limited to small groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Child Specific Risks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Programme Application Form - Any relevant information about physical or behavioural issues or concerns must be disclosed by parents or their connections on application for their child before joining any Blue Teapot programme.</li> </ul>
<b>Infection Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BOCSI National Policy for Infection Prevention &amp; Control.</li> <li>▪ COVID pandemic measures previously in place and preventative measures continued such as hand sanitizer stations</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting of incidents or matters of concern</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BOCSI Policy Administration and Management.</li> <li>▪ BOSCI Policy on the Management and Reporting of Accidents, Incidents and Critical Incidents.</li> </ul>

## IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually, with next review being **October 2024** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

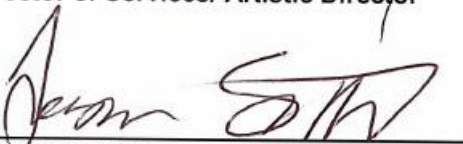
**Signed on behalf of Blue Teapot:**

**16th October 2023**



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**PETAL PILLEY**  
Director of Services/ Artistic Director



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**JASON SCOTT**  
Community Theatre Co-Ordinator  
Sparkle, Bright Soul.

## DESIGNATED PERSON

**Shauna O'Boyle 087 782 6646 or 091 721 400**

**Deputy - Michael Flood - 087-632 5754 / 091 721 400**

**Brothers of Charity Services Ireland – West Regions**

***Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.***