

Blackrock Tidy Towns Child Safeguarding Statement

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, Blackrock Tidy Towns has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 Blackrock Tidy Towns has adopted this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is John Horan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ann Campbell
- 4 Blackrock Tidy Towns recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of our policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, volunteers will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The committee and volunteers will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

Blackrock Tidy Towns will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult with a special vulnerability.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to volunteers in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) Blackrock Tidy Towns
 - Has provided each member of the committee and volunteer with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new volunteers are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Maintains records of all committee members and volunteers training
 - In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all involved in Tidy Towns activities are required to adhere to the procedures in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

- In this Blackrock Tidy Towns has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Blackrock Tidy Towns has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in Tidy Towns activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.

6 This statement has been published on the Blackrock Tidy Towns website and has been provided to all volunteers. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by Blackrock Tidy Towns on _____

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee

Secretary of Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee

Date: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1

List of Tidy Towns Activities involving Children:

Participation in voluntary activities, e.g. litter picking, beach cleans

Participation in activities in the park, on the beach and generally around the village

Participation in the annual raft race and family fun day, the sandcastle building competition, Junior Poc Fada and talent show

Participation in the Junior Tidy Towns group, meetings and activities

The use of photography, video and other methods of recording Tidy Towns activities

Appendix 2

It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of ‘harm’ as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The committee had identified the following risks in relation to its activities:

Risk of harm not being recognised by members of the committee or volunteers

Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly to the committee or designated liaison person

Risk of a child being harmed by a member of the committee or a volunteer

Risk of a child being harmed by another child

Risk of harm due to bullying of a child

Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children

In undertaking this risk assessment Blackrock Tidy Towns has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to the activities of this organisation and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to address the risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee all remove all risk of harm Blackrock Tidy Towns has the procedures listed in this risk assessment to reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment was completed by Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee on 29 April 2019. It shall be reviewed as part of our annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement.

Appendix 3

Blackrock Tidy Towns has put the following procedures in place to address the risk of harm identified in this assessment:

All Committee members and volunteers engaged in activities where children are involved will be furnished with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Blackrock Tidy Towns activities involving children will only proceed if there is adequate parental or teacher supervision during the activity or where there are no less than two supervising adults at activities.

Blackrock Tidy Towns activities involving children will by time limited, times will be advised to teachers or parents as required.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee

Secretary of Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee

Date: _____

Date: _____