

ANNER HOTEL

CONFERENCE & LEISURE CENTRE

Anner Hotel leisure Centre
Dublin Road
Lognafulla
Thurles
Co. Tipperary

Child Safety Statement

Nature of service

This hotel provides accommodation, dining and leisure facilities to adults and children. Children's services include:

Kids Club – includes supervised activities for children aged 4 to 12 years. These activities include arts and crafts and movie time

Babysitting Service – The Hotel have contact numbers for Babysitters in the local area that can be booked for Hotel residents at their request.

Leisure Centre – Family memberships include membership for 2 adults and 2 children. Children on family memberships have access to the swimming pool only from 7am-7pm Monday to Saturday and 9am-6pm on Sundays and bank Holidays and must be supervised by the parent/guardian who is named on the membership.

Swimming Lessons – Swimming lessons are carried out on site by qualified instructors. Children from the age of 4 are catered for in our group lessons that run for 8-week terms.

Work Experience for persons under 18 years – HR policy available for work experience for persons under the age of 18 years

Commitment to Safeguard Children from Harm

- Our service is committed to safeguarding the children who take part in any of our aforementioned services and to provide a safe environment.
- Our service believes that the welfare of children attending our services 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 services, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First – Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
- Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff and students on work placement within our organisation. All staff and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.
- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- **Designated Liaison Person** for Child Protection

DLP:
Joanne Hubbard

General Manager:
Noel Mulhaire

Risk Assessment

This Hotel has carried out a risk assessment of any potential harm to a child while availing of our services as detailed in Children First Act 2015 (Section 11), which defines risk as *“any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service.”*

Section 2 defines harm as follows: *“harm means in relation to a child – (a) Assault, ill treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is like to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or (b) Sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.”*

Below are a list of the risks identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks of harm.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk
1.	<p>Risk of harm in Hotel Kids Club where children are supervised by employees of the Hotel.</p> <p>Activities include indoor play and outdoor games</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employees in this Hotel who are carrying out relevant work or activities as outlined Schedule 1 of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 are vetted in accordance with the legislation Relevant work includes any work or activities carried out by a person, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to or contact with children or vulnerable persons
2.	<p>Risk of harm to children in families who are availing of babysitting services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All babysitters provided in this Hotel who are carrying out relevant work or activities as outlined Schedule 1 of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 are vetted in accordance with the legislation <p>Relevant work includes any work or activities carried out by a person, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to or contact with children or vulnerable persons</p>
3.	<p>Risk of harm to children who are availing of swimming lessons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Swimming Instructors provided in this Hotel who are carrying out relevant work or activities as outlined Schedule 1 of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 are vetted in accordance with the legislation <p>Relevant work includes any work or activities carried out by a person, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to or contact with children or vulnerable persons</p>
4.	<p>Observation of child protection concerns by member of staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child protection officer has been appointed by this Hotel to act as the relevant person for the child safeguarding statement and as a designated liaison person. They will engage in appropriate training to prepare them for this role. All members of staff who have contact with children as part of the provision of a relevant service have received training on how to respond to incidents of child protection concerns arising in the Hotel and have engaged with the online programme; http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme or have completed Safeguarding 1 and 2. <p>Staff who work with children have been provided with relevant extracts of the National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, which defines four categories of abuse: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse and helps workers to look out for this.</p>

5.	Allegation against staff member of child protection concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an allegation of child protection concern is made by a child against a Hotel employee, the Hotel has a dual responsibility in respect of both the child/young person and the worker. The child protection officer and the management team must be alerted to the allegation as soon as possible. • The first priority is for the safety of the child and no child or young person is exposed to unnecessary risk pending investigation of the allegation. <p>There are two separate procedures to be followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The reporting procedure to TUSLA in respect of the child/young person and the alleged abuser b) The internal personnel procedure for dealing with the worker <p>We refer to page 37 & 38 of the following TUSLA document for further details of managing allegations against a staff member. http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_Child_Safeguarding – A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practive.pdf</p>
6.	Welfare of work experience participants under 18 years of age	A work experience programme has been developed to ensure safe work experience for minors under 18 years. Details of same are included in HR/induction manual.

Hotel Child Protection Officer

The Children First Act 2015(Section. 11) states that providers of a relevant service must appoint a “relevant person” who acts as the first point of contact in respect of the provider’s child safeguarding statement.

It has also been recommended by TUSLA that public and private organisations that are providing services to children should appoint a “designated liaison person” in keeping with best practice in child safeguarding.

The Hotel has appointed a person to fulfil the dual role of relevant person and designated officer. This person will be referred to as the Hotel Child Protection officer. Their role will be as follows;

- To ensure the hotel child safeguarding statement is kept up to date.
- Manage training for staff as required in consultation with management team.
- Be the contact person for a staff member who has a concern about child protection issue.
- Liaise with TUSLA and Gardaí as required in respect of any issue of child protection concern which arises in the hotel.
- Engage in appropriate training to carry out the role.
- Inform the management team in writing of any referral to TUSLA.

Implementation

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 in December 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.