

## SVP CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

### Midlands Prison Visitor Centre

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.

**Region:** South East

**Service:** Midlands Prison Visitor Centre

**Location:** Portlaoise Prison, Dublin Rd, Portlaoise, Co Laois

**Persons Responsible:**

**For Providing the Service:** Catherine Coleman [Catherine.coleman@svp.ie](mailto:Catherine.coleman@svp.ie)

**Relevant Person:** Anne McLaughlin [Anne.McLoughlin@svp.ie](mailto:Anne.McLoughlin@svp.ie) 057 8672227 / 086 0462405

**Service description:** The Prison Visitor Centre provides a supportive space, advice and guidance service for children and families visiting others in prison. There is also a play area for children aged 1 year+ for the additional support of children visiting Midlands Prison.

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. It also highlights additional controls that can be put in place to mitigate against the identified risks.

Risks are identified in the following categories:

| RISK                                                                                                            | LIKELIHOOD | POLICIES TO CONTROL RISK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer.</b> | Low        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 3 Safe Recruitment &amp; Selection, Section 4 Safeguarding Training, Section 5 Safe Management of Activities, and Section 6 Safe Management of Employees &amp; Volunteers).</li> <li>SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare and Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>SVP Volunteer Policy – Recruitment &amp; Training Procedure.</li> <li>SVP HR Recruitment Policy.</li> <li>Staff and Volunteer Induction Training Programme.</li> </ul> |

|                                                                                                                                       |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                       |              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPS CCTV Recordings Policy</li> <li>• Childcare Policies and Procedures</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy Statement</li> <li>• Toileting Policy</li> <li>• CCTV Recordings Policy</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service.</b>                               | Low-Medium   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 4 Safeguarding Training, and Section 6 Safe Management of Employees &amp; Volunteers).</li> <li>• SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare and Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>• IPS Visitor Centre Policy</li> <li>• IPS Bookings policy</li> <li>• Childcare Policies and procedures</li> <li>• Visitor Induction Programme</li> <li>• Local Code of Conduct</li> <li>• SVP Staff &amp; Volunteer Policy - Training</li> </ul> |
| <b>Risk of Harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer.</b>                                                       | Low-Medium   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 4 Safeguarding Training, Section 5.1.7 Code of Behaviour for Participants, Section 6.1 Code of Conduct, and Section 7.4 Anti-Bullying).</li> <li>• Childcare Policies and procedures</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Anti Bullying Policy</li> <li>• SVP Volunteer Policy</li> <li>• SVP HR Recruitment Policy</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography.</b>                             | Low          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 3 Safe Recruitment &amp; Selection, Section 5.1.9 Use of Photography, Video and/or Social Digital Media, and Section 6.1 Code of Conduct).</li> <li>• SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare &amp; Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>• IPS Camera and mobile Phone Policy</li> <li>• Centre Photography and Mobile Phone policy</li> </ul>                                                                                       |
| <b>Risk of Harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access.</b> | Low - Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 5.1.9 Use of Photography, Video and/or Social Digital Media, and Section 6.1 Code of Conduct).</li> <li>• SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare &amp; Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>• SVP Social Media Policy</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                           |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           |              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPS Camera and mobile Phone Policy</li> <li>• Centre Photography and Mobile Phone policy</li> <li>• Centre Code of Conduct</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Reporting Concerns</b> | Low - Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SVP Policy on Recognising &amp; Reporting Welfare &amp; Protection Concerns About Children or Adults Who May Be Vulnerable.</li> <li>• SVP Policy on Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups (Section 2 Key Roles &amp; Responsibilities, and Section 4 Safeguarding Training).</li> <li>• Parent information sheets</li> <li>• Child Friendly materials</li> <li>• Display Boards</li> <li>• SVP Safeguarding Training Programme</li> </ul> |

In addition to this activity's risk assessment 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.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of persons in the relevant services who are mandated persons.
- Procedures for appointing a relevant person for the purposes of the Statement.

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

The Relevant Person for this Child Safeguarding Statement is:  
This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on:

**Anne McLoughlin**  
**4<sup>th</sup> of April 2027**