



## Child Safeguarding Statement

This Child Safety Statement as defined in the Children First Act 2015 is a 'written statement' specifying the service being provided by Colemanstown United F.C. (hereinafter called CUFC) and the principles & procedures to be observed to ensure as far as is practicable, that a child, while availing of the service our club provides as a soccer club, is safe from harm.'

CUFC in accordance with the FAI Rulebook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies, procedures and our legislative requirements have agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all members. CUFC is a soccer club operating on a Local/County/Regional scale providing sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation. CUFC offers sporting activities to children and young people from the age of 6years. CUFC recruits over 70 volunteers with over 340 participants. CUFC is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies and procedures, our volunteers working with our children and young people, throughout the club, seek to create a safe and fun environment for children and young people to participate in their sport.

### Risk Assessment

In preparing this statement CUFC have completed a Risk Assessment of the potential risk of harm to children when they are participating in any of our games and attending our activities. The risks were reviewed under the following headings; Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm. The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 & reviewed at an Executive Committee meeting. A separate document lists the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures and policies for managing these risks.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has also 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).

### Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and the requirements of the FAI Rulebook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies and procedures that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. CUFC is established on a number of core principles:

- the needs of the child, integrity and respect, environment, equality, fair play, welfare and safety in football. These underlying principles underpin our rules, policies and procedures to ensure that when children participate in our activities, they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

CUFC has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities (Child Protection Policy & Club Policy & Procedures Document)
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities. (Recruitment Policy)
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm (All volunteers attend Safeguarding course delivered by the FAI before they work in a voluntary capacity)
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities (Child Protection Policy)

The Mandated Person for Colemanstown United F.C. is Martina Donnellan who completed Safeguarding 1 & 2 programmes while the Designated Liaison Person is Chairman Adrian Burke who completed a Safeguarding 3 programme. All above policies are available to parents, guardians, Tusla & members of the public upon request.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in March 2023

Signed: *Adrian Burke*  
Adrian Burke: Club Chairman

Signed: *Martina Donnellan*  
Martina Donnellan: Childrens officer

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022