# Child Protection and Code of Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Statement

## Rahan Comhaltas

Promoting the development of Traditional Irish Music, Song, Dance, Storytelling and the Irish Language

***"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them"***

**(Article 19 : UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)**

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# INTRODUCTION

This Child Protection Policy incorporates guidelines and procedures in respect of Rahan Branch of Comhaltas and outlines how adult, children and young people should interact in the club.

## NOTE: A child or young person is defined as any person under 18 years

The main aim of this document is to ensure that both adults and children can share a great musical tradition in a safe musical environment.

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN fully recognises its responsibilities for Child Protection. Our policy applies to all staff, branch members, volunteers, teachers, etc (hereinafter ALL referred to as "members") working with the organisation.

COMHALTAS is an international organisation with many year's experience in passing on our cultural traditions to younger generations through music, song, dance and the Irish language.

As a COMHALTAS member, staff or volunteer it is important to understand that you are in a position of responsibility, authority and trust with respect to the young people you may work with or come in contact with in the course of Comhaltas related activities.

The welfare of children and young people with whom Comhaltas works, their health and wellbeing and their best interests are considered paramount.

Comhaltas members are required to adhere to the Policy, Procedures and Code of Practice in the exercise of their duties.

This document is written to ensure that working with Comhaltas in whatever capacity will be a safe and enjoyable experience for all involved.

# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This policy ensures that staff, branch members and volunteers are clear about the actions necessary with regard to child protection issues.

Its aims are:

To raise the awareness of all - staff, branch members and volunteers and to identify responsibility in reporting possible cases of abuse.

To ensure effective communication between staff, branch members and volunteers when dealing with child protection issues.

To lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

# POLICY STATEMENT

The health, safety and well-being of all our children and young people are of paramount importance to all the workers and volunteers who are a part of Comhaltas. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in all our activities.

In our activities we value our children and young people. A culture of mutual respect between children and those who represent the organisation in all its activities will be encouraged with adults modelling good practice in this context.

Comhaltas recognises that good child protection policies and procedures are of benefit to everyone involved with our work, including staff, branch officers, members and volunteers, as these policies can help protect them from erroneous or malicious allegations.

# LEGLISLATION:

*Under **The Child Care Act of 1991 and Children First – National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children -1999, 2009,2011** voluntary sector organisations such as ours have a statutory duty of care for the children and young people to whom we provide services.*

*The principle, which should inform best practice in child protection, is that the welfare of the child is of paramount importance.*

*"All organisations, whether statutory or voluntary, have an overall corporate responsibility to safeguard children, and should pay particular attention to*

- *Safe and clearly defined methods of selecting staff and volunteers.*
- *Developing effective procedures for the reporting and management of child protection concerns.*
- *Identifying a designated staff member/volunteer to act as a liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person to any staff member or volunteer who has child protection concerns. The designated person will be responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to the HSE (Health Service Executive) and/or An Garda Síochána. (Children First – National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children – 1999 & 2009).*

**RATIONALE**

1. To adopt a Policy and Code Of Practice on safeguarding the welfare of Children.
2. To plan the work of the Organisation so as to eliminate situations where the abuse of a child may occur.
3. To apply agreed procedures for protecting children to all members and volunteers
4. To use supervision as a means of protecting children.
5. To ensure that staff, branch members and volunteers are aware of this Policy, Code of Practice and Child Protection procedures to be followed.

# FOUR ELEMENTS:

**1. We establish a safe environment in which Children can learn, perform and develop:**

**a**. We create an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to communicate and are listened to.

b. We ensure children know that there are adults in Comhaltas whom they can approach if they have concerns.

c. We ensure that adult members of Comhaltas, and other adults working with Comhaltas, possess an understanding of the responsibility placed on the organisation for child protection by stating its obligation in this policy.

**2. We raise awareness of the child protection issues among members and co-workers:**

a. We ensure every member in contact with children is aware of this Policy and Procedures/guidelines and are aware of their inherent responsibilities.

b. We raise awareness of the Child Protection Policy with all members, parents, tutors and supervisors.

**3. We practise safe recruitment and check the suitability of staff/teachers:**

a. We recognise the importance of checking the background of teachers (music, singing, dancing, etc) and others before they are given responsibility to work with children. Comhaltas, as a voluntary organisation, has registered with the GCVU, An Garda Síochána Central Vetting Unit. Current best practice requires that all adults working with children in Éire receive garda vetting.

**4. We implement Procedures in respect of suspect alleged or confirmed cases of abuse:**

a. We recognise that members may in some instances have cause for concern. Should the latter occur guidance should be sought from the DLP and liaise with statutory agencies, namely the HSE (Health Service Executive) and An Garda Síochána.

b. We will maintain effective links with the relevant agencies and cooperate with any enquiry regarding child protection matters.

c. We will follow child protection procedures where an allegation is made against a member/volunteer. (Refer to "Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children" (1999 & 2009) – Government Publications.

## DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON (DLP):

A Designated Liaison Person will be nominated by each Comhaltas Branch each year. The **D.L.P** has the responsibility for managing child protection issues within the branch. The role and responsibilities of the DLP are:

1. To implement and promote the unit's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
2. To act as the main contact for child protection within the branch.
3. To provide information and advice on child protection for the branch membership.
4. To create awareness of the importance of child protection.
5. To communicate with members on child protection issues.
6. To keep abreast of developments and understand the most recent information on related issues – data protection, confidentiality, legal and other, that impact on child protection.
7. To encourage good practice and support of the procedures involved.
8. To maintain confidential records of reported cases and the action taken and to liaise with the statutory agencies and ensure that they have access to all necessary information.
9. To regularly monitor and review the branch Policy and Procedures

## Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, 1998

This act was passed on 23rd Jan 1999. The main provisions of the act are:

- The provision of immunity from civil liability to any person who reports child abuse "reasonably and in good faith" to designated officers of the HSE or An Garda Síochána.
- The creation of a new offence of false reporting of child abuse where a person makes a report "knowing that statement to be false"

"A person shall not be liable in damages in respect of the communication, whether in writing or otherwise, by him or her to an appropriate person of his or her opinion that

1. A child has been or is being assaulted, ill-treated, neglected or sexually abused, or
2. A child's health, development or welfare has been or is being avoidably impaired or neglected, unless it is proved that he or she has not acted reasonably and in good faith in forming that opinion and communicating it to the appropriate person"
3. Unless it is proved that he or she has not acted reasonably and in good faith in forming that opinion and communicating it to the appropriate person"

## Procedures for Reporting issues of Child Protection concerns:

1. If a member of Comhaltas receives an allegation, or has a suspicion that a child is being abused, he or she must, in the first instance, consult with the branch DLP. If the concern is about the DLP, please report issue to the branch Chairman.

2. It is important that the suspicions or allegations are recorded by the DLP.

3. In cases where an allegation is made, the DLP must report the matter immediately to the relevant authorities, ie. the designated officer in the HSE or to An Garda Síochána.

4. It is essential that at all times the matter is treated in a confidential manner.

5. It is NOT the responsibility of the DLP or any other person to find a resolution or discuss the matter with anyone else except the appropriate agencies.

6. All advice proffered by the HSE and An Garda Síochána should be strictly adhered to.

From this Point on only Statutory Authorities should deal with the matter.

# Code of Behaviour for Teachers/Volunteers

**Teachers/volunteers (where applicable) involved in traditional music, song, dance and the Irish language are expected to:**

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person.
2. Treat each young person equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.
3. Be positive during lessons so that pupils always leave with a sense of achievement.
4. Recognise the development needs and capacity of all pupils, regardless of their ability. (Personal development and satisfaction should have priority over competition).
5. Do not shout at or lecture pupils or reprimand /ridicule them when they make a mistake. (Children learn best through trial and error. They should not be afraid to risk error to learn).Never use any form of corporal punishment or physical force.
6. It's important to recognise that certain situations e.g. horse play/role play/telling jokes etc –could be misinterpreted and lead to allegations of serious misconduct or impropriety.
7. Disallow pupils any inappropriate usage of mobile phones during lesson time.
8. Avoid any unnecessary contact (Refer to Appendix 2) when assisting pupils to perform a technique in music, song, dance etc.
9. Set realistic – stretching but achievable – performance goals. Praise and reinforce effort/commitment and provide positive feedback.
10. Do not have a situation where you are alone in a classroom room with a pupil. (If this matter should arise a committee member should be notified immediately).
11. Do not communicate individually through text/multimedia with children & young people without the consent of the parent/guardian. Once consent is given this should be done through group communication only.

**Teachers/volunteers (where applicable) involved in traditional music, song, dance and the Irish language should lead by example:**

- Never use foul or provocative language.
- Do not consume alcohol or non-prescribed drugs immediately, prior to or while pupils are in your care.
- Avoid smoking in the presence of young people.
- Encourage parents/guardians to become involved wherever possible.
- Be punctual and properly attired.
- Plan and prepare appropriately for each lesson.
- Avoid using mobile phones during lesson times

# Code of Behaviour for Children

**Children & Young People involved in traditional music, song, dance and the Irish language are entitled to:**

• Be safe and feel safe.

• Have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment.

• Be treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity.

• Comment and make suggestions in a constructive manner.

• Be afforded appropriate confidentiality.

• Participate in sessions, concerts, competitions and any other activities the branch may be involved in, at levels with which they feel comfortable and suits their experience.

• Make their concerns known and have them dealt with in an appropriate manner.

**Children & Young People involved in traditional music, song, dance and the Irish language should always:**

• Do their best and enjoy themselves.

- Make sure they are properly equipped for their lesson, eg instrument, music folder, recorder etc.

• Respect other members regardless of ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.

• Support other members regardless of whether they do well or not.

• Respect all teachers and voluntary helpers.

• Ensure that their teacher/committee member is informed in advance if they are unable to attend their lesson.

• Know that it is acceptable to talk to the Branch Children's Officer/DLP with any concerns or questions they may have.

• Tell somebody else if they or others have been harmed in any way.

• Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour.

• Take care of their instruments, whether on loan or personally owned.

Respect all venues/classrooms and their contents.

**Children & Young People involved in traditional music, song, dance and the Irish language should never:**

• Shout at or argue with a teacher, voluntary worker, class mate etc.

• Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate other members.

• Spread rumours, by word of mouth, social media etc.

• Tell lies about adults or other young people.

• Use unacceptable language or racial and/or sectarian references.

• Run, climb or partake in any other activity between lessons that may cause harm to themselves or others.

• Use mobile phones inappropriately during classes.

# Code of Behaviour for Parents/Guardians

**Parents/Guardians involved in traditional music, song, dance and the Irish language are expected to:**

- Complete and return branch registration form promptly.
- Deliver and collect children punctually.
- Ensure child is properly attired for their lesson, eg instrument, music folder, recorder etc.
- Ensure appropriate and comfortable clothing is worn.
- Detail any relevant health concerns pertaining to the child on the consent/registration form.
- Ensure that teacher/committee member is informed in advance if your child is unable to attend their lesson.
- Inform the teacher beforehand if the child is to be collected early.
- Encourage the child to practice between lessons.
- Encourage all children's efforts, listen and be positive.
- Appreciate and respect your child's teacher.
- Be realistic.
- Supervise children before and after lessons.
- Ensure your child does not partake in any activity that may cause harm to themselves or others eg. running, climbing, boisterous playing etc.

Rahan Comhaltas accepts no responsibility for your children outside the school doors they are not allowed play in the school yard at any stage as we cannot provide supervision for them.

**Parents/Guardians have the right to:**

- Know their child is safe.
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to their child.
- Be informed if the child is unhappy in any situation.
- Contribute to decisions within the Rahan Comhaltas Branch
- Complain if there is concern about the standard of teaching.
- **Know your Child Protection Officer who is Declan Carroll 086 0226824**

# Appendix 1 Code of Conduct for Music venues and Events

## Ground Rules for Rahan Nation School and all Comhaltas Music Lessons and events

As a committee we are particularly concerned for our music students while in the Killina school environs during Music lessons and also during other Comhaltas events such as Sessiún etc.

Students are advised that their sole purpose for being in the school/Comhaltas environment is to learn and play Irish Traditional Music. While we encourage a fun filled and friendly environment the school premises , classes and grounds are not a playground while students are not in music classes or playing music. This applies to all Comhaltas event sites.

Students need to understand that the adults supervising the school/events during music classes/events do so voluntarily and aspire to create a safe and quiet environment for music classes/Comhaltas Events.

Students and children need to understand the definition of a child for the purposes of Comhaltas Child Protection Policy.

### NOTE: A child or young person is defined as any person under18 years of age.

Students are asked to:

1. Not run, climb or partake in any other activity between lessons that may cause harm to themselves or others.
2. Remain inside the School building main doors until collected at the door by their parent or Guardian.
3. Students are not allowed out to play on outside environment of school or carpark or the event venue.
4. Not climb boundary walls of the school/Event environment under any circumstances
5. Interfere with the musical instruments of others without permission or throw their instruments on the ground making them a trip hazard for others in the building.
6. Not leave the designated waiting area between the fire doors in main school hall unless they are attending music class or accompanied by their parent or guardian. If students are waiting with parents outside a music class they must do so without making noise that interferes with music classes in progress.
7. Return immediately to the main Hall when their music classes are over.
8. Not use mobile phones inappropriately during lesson times or other music events.
9. To be careful with technology. Students may have personal mobile phones and internet devices which should be used only for personal use such as communicating with parents to arrange collection. Under no circumstances are students to share devices that contain any images or data which would not be acceptable in their own School environments.
10. Ensure a music environment which is free from bullying, discrimination or any other antisocial behavior which may cause harm or concern to anyone attending a Comhaltas run event.

Comhaltas is an organization which aspires to have children and adults learn and play music together in a safe and enjoyable environment and to this end their parents and guardians also have a responsibility to:

- Deliver and collect your children punctually at the door of the school/event.
- Speak to your children about what is expected of them at Comhaltas events
- Supervise your children before and after Comhaltas events.
- Offer to assist Comhaltas Committee with the supervision of kids at Comhaltas music lessons and other events.
- Stay quiet in the Dance hall (GYM) or outside the Music Lessons class room during lessons

Rahan Comhaltas Children and young people are very well behaved and a credit to their club and parents. Their parents are very supportive of the club and this is important to the committee. These rules have been drawn up as part of a child protection Policy and are required as the number of student's have risen and as a committee we need to ensure a safe environment where everyone knows their responsibilities.

Please ensure you outline these rules to your children and please volunteer to help us provide a safe environment for all.

**Declan Carroll** (Child Protection Officer for Rahan Comhaltas)

Signed By _____(Parent) _____(child)

# Appendix 2: Definitions of abuse

There are four main categories of abuse as outlined in Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children. The following is a synopsis of the information contained in that document. For the full definitions please refer to Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children 1993.

**1. Neglect**

"Neglect can be defined as being where the child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, medical care….The threshold of significant harm is reached when

the child's needs are neglected to the extent that his or her well-being and/or development are severely

affected." (Children First p.31)

**2. Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse usually happens where there is a relationship between a carer and a child rather than as a specific incident or incidents. "Unless other forms of abuse are present, it is rarely manifested in terms of physical signs or symptoms." (Children First p.31) Rather, it can manifest in the child's behaviour or physical functioning. Examples of these include 'anxious' attachment, unhappiness, low self-esteem, educational and developmental underachievement and uncooperative or hostile behaviour. "The threshold of significant harm is reached when interaction is predominantly abusive and become typical of the relationship between the child and the parent/carer." (Children First p.32)

**Examples of emotional abuse in children include:**

• Imposition of negative attributes on children, expressed by persistent criticism, sarcasm, hostility or blaming;

• Emotional unavailability by the child's parent/carer;

• Unresponsiveness, inconsistent or inappropriate expectations of the child;

• Premature imposition of responsibility on the child;

• Unrealistic or inappropriate expectations of the child's capacity to understand something or to behave and control him/herself in a certain way;

• Under or over-protection of the child;

• Use of unreasonably harsh discipline;

• Exposure to domestic violence.

**3. Physical abuse**

Physical abuse is any form of non-accidental injury or injury which results from wilful or neglectful failure to protect a child.

**Examples of physical injury include the following**:

• Shaking;

• Use of excessive force in handling;

• Deliberate poisoning;

• Suffocation;

• Allowing or creating a substantial risk of significant physical harm to a child.

**4. Sexual abuse**

Sexual abuse involves the use of a child for gratification or sexual arousal by a person for themselves or others.

**Examples of sexual abuse include**:

• Exposure of the sexual organs or any sexual act intentionally performed in the presence of a child;

• Intentional touching or molesting of the body of a child whether by a person or object for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification;

• Masturbation in the presence of the child or involvement of the child in an act of masturbation;

• Sexual intercourse with a child whether oral, vaginal or anal;

• Sexual exploitation of a child… may also include showing sexually explicit material to children which is often a feature of the 'grooming' process by perpetrators of abuse;

• Consensual sexual activity involving an adult and an under-age person.

# Appendix 3 General Conduct

IT IS IMPERATIVE that in all dealings with the children in our care a balance is struck between the rights of the child and the need for intervention. As a general rule any physical contact between the branch personnel and the child should be in response to the needs of the child and not the needs of the adult. While physical contact can be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child the following should be factors in assessing its appropriateness:

• it is acceptable to the child concerned

• it is open and not secretive

• it is appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the child

Branch personnel should not do things of a personal nature for a child which the child can do for him/herself.

# Appendix 4 One-to-one teaching

One-to-one teaching may be provided only if other students have not turned up for shared classes. The branch needs to weigh up the benefits of this against the possible disadvantages in relation to a child protection issue. Every effort should be made to ensure the protection of children and staff. It is crucial that clear boundaries are put in place regarding physical environment (e.g. vision panel in door), seating arrangements, proper timetabling etc. IF A CHILD NEEDS one-to-one teaching parents should be advised if they are at the venue with the child or if not the volunteers on site should be informed and the following procedure followed:

- Inform the volunteers at the venue that you are teaching a single child
- Child should be seated with clear boundaries between the teacher and child
- Door should be left open at all times
- If possible regular checks should be performed by the other volunteers who were informed.
- If child is showing any unease or concern or is extremely shy then consideration should be made to abandon the lesson.
- If the parent of the child is at the venue they should remain with the child.

Note: The only one to one teaching under the control of Rahan Comhaltas is at the Music and Dance Classes Venue organised by the Rahan Comhaltas Committee.

# Appendix 5 Venue Selection for Music Dance and other Club Activities

Only Rahan Comhaltas Committee sanctioned venues may be considered under the control of Rahan Comhaltas Club and its Committee . No activities organised by third parties (Members of Rahan Comhaltas or not) will be considered as being under the control of Rahan Comhaltas unless an application has been made in writing to the Secretary of Rahan Comhaltas Committee and the venue and the activity is sanctioned at a committee meeting of Rahan Comhaltas. All activities of Rahan Comhaltas must be organised by Committee and a record of such planned events should be recorded by the Secretary of the Club in the minutes of such meeting.

If a decision to hold an event or use a venue is required outside of a committee meeting then it should be agreed by three members of Rahan Comhaltas Committee and recorded by email to the Secretary of Rahan Comhaltas and reviewed at the next Committee meeting. This option should only be used in the event that an organised event is required urgently but should not be allowed to become the norm.

A venue should be vetted for use and appraised and risk assessed. The security of the venue should be appraised and should be rated as follows:

1. **Safe Secure (Green Venue)** and under control of Rahan Comhaltas (e.g. Rahan School Music and Dance Classes)
2. **Safe Public Venue (Yellow Venue)** but children cannot leave the venue while at the activity and should be supervised (E.g. Rahan Hall)
3. **Public Venue (Red Venue) Child remains under the control of the Parent or Guardian** or appointed care person at all times (e.g. Hotel, licensed premises etc.)

The type of premises used is under the control of Rahan Comhaltas Committee but all Rahan Comhaltas Child Protection Policy needs to be implemented depending on the type of premises and activity being considered.

## Appendix 6 Child Safeguarding Statement Rahan Comhaltas

Rahan Comhaltas

Child Safeguarding Statement outline

**Section 1: Name of Service and Service being Provided**

**Section 2: Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:** Describe the nature of your services and specify the principles that you will observe to keep children safe from harm while they are availing of your service.

**Section 3: Risk assessment:** *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017) provides additional guidance on carrying out the risk assessment component of your Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Section 4: Procedures:** As this is only a sample list, you will need to add to this list as appropriate, based on the outcome of your risk assessment. Please see also Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

**Section 5: Implementation:** At a minimum, reviews must be carried out every 24 months. The provider is the individual with overall responsibility for the organisation. This may be the chief executive officer, chairperson of a board of management, owner/operator, etc.

**Relevant Person:** You should include the name and contact details of the Relevant Persons, who are the first point of contact regarding your Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Rahan Comhaltas**

**Note:** This is a Child Safeguarding statement is taken from TUSLA using the following:

- *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*
- *Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement* (www.tusla.ie)
- *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice* (www.tusla.ie)

1. **Name of service being provided:** Rahan Comhaltas - Music and Dance Classes and Activities related to our Club organisation.

2. **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm** (*brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children*):
*Rahan Comhaltas provide Music and Dance classes for Children and Adults and also provide activities and events where we perform for audiences and organisations to enhance and develop our music and dance skills of all our members. We also provide a social outlet in Music for all ages in a safe and friendly setting.*

3. **Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

| | **Risk identified** | **Procedure in place to manage identified risk** |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Music Classes and Dance Classes and other venues | Code of Behaviour for Teachers and Volunteers Outlined in Child Protection Policy |
| 2 | Care of Children at events and classes | Code of Behaviour for Children |
| 3 | Role of Parents and Guardians | Code of Behaviour for Parents and Guardians |
| 4 | Venue Selection | Venue Selection Policy and grading |
| 5 | Use of Technology | Code of behaviour for Children |
| 6 | One to one Teaching | Allowed only at official music and dance classes venue under set procedures |
| 7 | | |

4. **Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Rahan Comhaltas Child Protection Policy
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service See Rahan comhaltas Child Protection Policy;
- **Code of behaviour for Children**
- **Code of behaviour for Parents/Guardians**
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children; Vetting of all volunteers and Teachers, **Code of behaviour for Volunteers and Teachers** Page 8 Rahan Comhaltas Child Protection Policy
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. Appointment at each AGM as per Rahan Comhaltas Child Protection Policy

All procedures listed are available on www.rahancomhaltas.ie in Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Statement.

## 5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. 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 has been reviewed during October 2021.

Signed: ____ _Betty Digan_____ (Rahan Comhaltas)
[Rahan Comhaltas Chairperson ]

Signed: _____Declan Carroll ___(Rahan Comhaltas)
[Desiginated Liaison Person and Child Protection Officer]

For queries, please contact ***Declan Carroll*** 086/0226824 Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.