



**Maggie Dagge Therapy** provides DvT dramatherapy to adults and children. Our therapeutic interventions engage children and young people of all ages and all abilities. We are committed to a child led approach in our services. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience where the welfare of the child and young person is paramount.

**Policies and Procedures**

We will adhere to the recommendations of *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, published by the Department of Health and Children(2017)and the *Child First Act* (2015) in line with Tusla’s *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

Our policy declaration applies to all therapists, interns, residents and students on work placement within our organisation. All of the above personnel must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this statement declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures. We want M Dagge Therapy to be a safe, inviting, open, inclusive and professional service for everyone.

**Review**

We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every year or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

We believe that the welfare of all children and young people is paramount. All children have the equal right to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity and everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding children.

This policy applies to all children and young people that M Dagge Therapy provides services for.

**Risk Assessment in accordance with the Children First Act 2015.**

Maggie Dagge has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending our service. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
1.	Risk of harm not noted by M Dagge personnel: therapists, interns, residents and students on work placement.	Introduce all personnel to our Safeguarding Policy; roles, reporting procedures and codes of behaviour. Provision of child safeguarding training provided by M Dagge Therapy as part of induction.
2.	Risk of harm not being reported properly or in good time by M Dagge personnel.	Personnel are aware of the role of the Mandated Person (Maggie Dagge and senior therapists), and receive training in child safeguarding concerns and levels of concern for reporting.



3.	Risk of young person being harmed by M Dagge personnel.	Safe recruitment procedures involves: Taking all reasonable steps to eliminate people who are not suitable for working with children; and insisting all staff are Garda vetted. Provide training on our child safeguarding policy. All personnel to read and sign our code of behavior policy for adults. Students on placement never to be left alone with a child.
4.	Risk of harm due to bullying of a young person.	Our policy outlines what constitutes bullying and harassment, who to make a complaint to and what action the company will take in dealing with an offence of this nature.
5.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of young people.	Always having a therapist present during student placements. A group of 8+ children will be treated by two therapists. Parents/guardians must always drop/collect their children inside the venue.
6.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship between adult personnel and a young person.	Personnel will never socialise with clients outside the therapy space or give a lift to a child in a car.
7.	Risk of harm caused by personnel communicating with young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	Personnel will NEVER communicate on a 1-1 basis with a child either by text, email or social media. Contact will be made via parents/guardians or organisation.
8.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images of young people.	Images of any child or young person participating in services will not be used for any reason without the written consent of the parent/guardian.
9.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of young people's personal data.	Personal data is never disclosed to a third party and remains confidential, unless requested to do so by Tusla or similar organisation for child safeguarding reasons.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This statement has been published on our website. It has been provided to all personnel. It is readily accessible to parents/guardians and organisations on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed: Maggie Dagge

Date: 1st March 2021

Maggie Dagge

Owner and senior therapist - Maggie Dagge Therapy.