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**Child Protection Policy**

**Responsible Officer** – CEO & Artistic Director

**Approval** – December 2023

**Effective** – January 2024

Green Room Productions NI is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years.

Staff and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and young people.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

* To protect children and young people who receive Green Room Production NI’s services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
* To provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Green Room Productions NI including senior management, board of directors/trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Executive, through the Department of Health (DoH), is responsible for child protection in Northern Ireland. They set out policy, legislation and statutory guidance on how the child protection system should work.

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) co-ordinates and ensures the effectiveness of work to protect and promote the welfare of children.

The board includes representatives from health, social care, the police, the probation board, youth justice, education, district councils and the NSPCC. The SBNI is responsible for developing policies and procedures to improve how different agencies work together.

Enhanced Access NI checks will be completed for all staff and volunteers working for Green Room Productions NI on all projects with children.

This document contains Green Room Production NI’s principles and guidelines for the protection of children. Additional support from the following resource should be used to regularly update these principles and seek any further guidance required.

[https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/writing-a-safeguarding-policy-statement/#:~:text=Safeguarding%20and%20child%20protection%20procedures%20are%20detailed%20guidelines%20and%20instructions,a%20child%27s%20safety%20or%20wellbeing.](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/writing-a-safeguarding-policy-statement/#:~:text=Safeguarding%2520and%2520child%2520protection%2520procedures%2520are%2520detailed%2520guidelines%2520and%2520instructions,a%2520child%2527s%2520safety%2520or%2520wellbeing.)

This document outlines Green Room Productions NI’s commitment to protecting children. These guidelines are based on the following principles:

* The welfare of children is the primary concern.
* All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, gender reassignment, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief, sex, sexual orientation and/or sexual identity have an equal right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
* Child protection is everyone's responsibility.
* Children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should

they wish to do so.

* Green Room Productions NI shall work in partnership together with children and parents/carers to promote the welfare, health and development of children.
* Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
* Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

Green Room Productions NI will:

• Promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to

take part in the Arts safely.

• Respect, value and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children.

• Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and protect them from abuse.

• Recruit, train, support and supervise its staff, members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.

• Require staff, members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and these procedures.

Provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.

• Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.

• Observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children.

• Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.

**Contact details for nominated Child Protection Lead**

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**NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

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Signed by Patricia Montgomery-Hughes

Position – CEO, Artistic Director and Board Member

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Signed by Nuala Elizabeth Donnelly

Position – Board Member