



# **Alternative Entertainments**

## **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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| Name of Service  | Alternative Entertainments   |
| Address of service   | Rua Red Arts Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 KV8N   |
| Location (List all locations where the service is provided)  | Rua Red Arts Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. The Civic Theatre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. The Sugar Club, Dublin 2. Camden Recording Studios, <u>Dublin 2</u> . <u>The Prioxy Market, Tallaght, Dublin 24</u> . <u>South Dublin County Library branches in Tallaght, Clondalkin, Lucan, and Ballyroan</u> . <u>Firhouse Community College, Tallaght, Dublin 24</u> . <u>Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin, Dublin 22</u> . <u>Kingswood Community College, Tallaght, Dublin 24</u> . <u>Scoil Chrónáin, Rathcoole, County Dublin</u> . <u>Scoil Caitlín Maude, Tallaght, Dublin 24</u> . <u>Scoil Santain, Tallaght Dublin 24</u> . <u>Clonburriss National School, Clondalkin, Dublin 22</u> . <u>Scoil Aoife, Tallaght, Dublin 24</u> . |
| Name of Person responsible for the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment  | Martin Moran   |
| Names of those consulted with in completing the risk assessment, if applicable   | N/A  |
| Details of where the CSS will be displayed and how it will be furnished to all staff   | On our websites - <a href="http://altents.ie">altents.ie</a> and <a href="http://subsounds.ie">subsounds.ie</a> . Staff will be directed to our policies through links in employment contracts.  |
| <p>Completed By: Martin Moran</p> <p>Date: 21/02/2025</p> <p>Date for Review: 16/02.2026</p> <p>(This risk assessment should be reviewed on an ongoing basis, and updated as required)</p> |  |

## Risk Assessment

It is the objective of Alternative Entertainments to keep children safe from harm while availing of/attending our projects. This risk assessment will focus on assessing the risk of harm to a child while availing of our services.

The legal definition of **harm** used for the purpose of this risk assessment is as follows:

“harm means in relation to a child –

(a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health,

development or welfare, or

(b) sexual abuse of the child,

whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.”

(Children First Act 2015, S.2 Definitions)

### **Definition of a Child:**

The Child Care Act, 1991, and the Children Act 2001 define a child as anyone under the age of 18.

## Service Details

### Description of the service provided:

Alternative Entertainments is a music-focused arts organisations delivering music tuition, songwriting workshops, recording and performance projects and festival opportunities to children and young people aged from 5 – 20 years-old. Professional musicians, engineers, producers and music industry business people are engaged as tutors and mentors to provide guidance and tuition to young musicians in projects such as SubSounds Youth Music Collective, SubSounds Youth Music Festival, The Des Carty Music School, The Night Belongs to Us, Behind the Scenes Productions and The AltEnts Children’s Music Festival. The service is provided in the form of classes, workshops, recording sessions, rehearsals, live performances and tutor/mentor training.

## List of activities provided:

### **SubSounds Youth Music Collective:**

Composition/Arrangement workshops – groups of 4-8 young participants with 2 mentors in rehearsal rooms/studios.

Lyric workshops – small groups (1-4 participants) with 1 mentor.

Recording sessions – groups of 4-8 young participants with 1 sound engineer and 2 mentors in a recording studio.

Rehearsals – groups of 4-8 young participants with 1 mentor in rehearsal rooms/studios.

Performances – full group of participants (up to 40 performers) in performance venues with the mentor team (at least 6 mentors), a stage manager and a sound engineer, in addition to the venue's staff. Attended by performers' friends and families.

### **The SubSounds Youth Music Festival:**

Event management – a group of 10-16 young people assist the festival's production team (6 industry professionals) with planning, setting up and taking down the annual festival in the grounds of TUD Tallaght. Engagement consists of Zoom and in-person meeting between the youth committee and production team; on-site stage, backstage and front of house preparation; festival stewarding; box-office management; clean-up.

Performance – c.120 young musicians aged 14 – 18 years perform on two stages at a day-long outdoor festival attended by c.1,000 audience made up of friends, family and members of the public, mostly teenage and young adult. Crew of 12, security staff of 10, supervised and aided by c.16 mentors and Music Educators.

### **The Des Carty Music School:**

Instrument classes – groups of 1 – 6 students with 1 tutor in music rooms in Rua Red Arts Centre.

Performances – end-of-term concerts featuring all of the school's students (c.60 students) performing in Rua Red , the Civic or Tallaght Library with the school's Administrator and 4/5 tutors present. Attended by performers' friends and families.

### **The AltEnts Children's Music Festival:**

Workshops and performances – national school groups of 25 – 300 pupils attend workshops and performances in schools, libraries and Rua Red Arts Centre delivered by a team of professional artists. Artists are accompanied by at least one member of each school's teaching staff for workshops and performances.

### **The Night Belongs to Us:**

Performances – a series of Night-time Economy concerts for young musicians ages from 14-18 years, held in venues in South Dublin County – Rua Red Arts Centre, The Civic Theatre, Áras Chrónáin, library branches in Tallaght, Lucan and Clondalkin. 4 – 10 young performers supervised and mentored by project manager, sound engineer and stage manager performing for audiences of 25 – 70 people, attended, in the main, by friends and family.

### **Behind the Scenes Productions:**

Workshops – 12/16 young participants receive training from 8 industry professionals in producing art/music/ dance/film presentations in workshops in Rua Red Arts Centre.

Events – participants help produce shows in Rua Red, The Civic, Áras Chrónáin and libraries accompanied by the project's teaching staff.

### **Profile of our service users:**

Children and young people aged 5 – 18 years. Service is open to all young people interested in learning a musical instrument or pursuing music composition and performance as a hobby or as possible study and career options.

Adults 19 and upwards: Service provides access to events – concerts and festivals – for older audiences.

### **Points of contact staff have with children**

Group workshops: 2 – 20 participants with 1 or 2 mentors/tutors. In Rua Red Arts Centre, secondary and national schools listed and libraries listed.

Instrument group class: 6 students with 1 tutor. In Rua Red Arts Centre.

Private classes: instrument, lyric, compositional workshops one-to-one tutoring/mentoring, i.e., 1 participant with 1 tutor/mentor. In Rua Red Arts Centre.

Events: mentors and production staff work with participants to produce live music events at venues listed.

Email contact: project co-ordinators contact young people and parents regarding projects and events connected with SubSounds and The Night belongs to Us event.

Telephone contact: project co-ordinators contact young people and parents regarding projects and events connected with SubSounds and The Night belongs to Us events.

# Summary of Identified Risks

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| <b>Risk 1</b> | Risk of harm to a child by a staff member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities                                   |
| <b>Risk 2</b> | Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities     |
| <b>Risk 3</b> | Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member                         |
| <b>Risk 4</b> | Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child                                |
| <b>Risk 5</b> | Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies in HSE services                |
| <b>Risk 6</b> | Risk 6 - Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact). |

The procedures that are required to be specified in the Child Safeguarding Statement under Section 11(3) of the Children First Act 2015 are listed at the end of the document.

## Risk One

| <b>Risk 1 - Risk or harm to a child by a staff member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Risk Description</b>   | There is a risk of harm to a child due to a staff member, volunteer or student physically, emotionally, or sexually abusing or neglecting a child, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare.                    |
| <b>What could happen?</b>   | A child could be abused or neglected by a staff member, volunteer or student, while availing of services. This could happen through face to face contact with a child, or through the use of information technology.  |
| <b>How could it happen?</b>   | A staff member could <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- arrange to meet with a child alone, within their working hours, for the purpose of abusing them</li> <li>- arrange to meet with a child, outside of working hours, for the purpose of abusing them</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contact a child, by phone or through online platforms, for the purpose of grooming with the intent to abuse</li> <li>- abuse a child while providing intimate care as part of the service provision</li> <li>- neglect a child in their care, either wilfully or accidentally, resulting in that child being harmed</li> <li>- lose control and cause physical harm to a child.</li> </ul> <p>A child could be harmed though the unauthorised taking and/or use of digital imagery by a staff member– for example, photographs and videos being shared without consent, modified or misused out of context, a vulnerable child being identified for the purpose of grooming and abuse</p> |
| <b>Why might it happen?</b>   | <p>This might happen because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a staff member deliberately engages in this behaviour</li> <li>- of inappropriate levels of supervision – for example child/adult ratios</li> <li>- of inappropriate levels of support or clinical supervision</li> <li>- of staff members not adhering to policy and procedures</li> <li>- staff members were not properly screened and Garda vetted, as appropriate</li> </ul>  |
| <b>What might the impact be?</b>  | <p>Harm to a child which seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare</p>  |
| <b>Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?</b> | <p>All staff</p>   |
| <b>Controls</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative Entertainment’s Child Protection Policy</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment’s Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment’s Ant-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment’s Code of Conduct</li> </ul>  |

## Risk Two

| Risk 2 – Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Risk Description</b>  | There is a risk of harm to a child due to another service user (adult or child), visitor or a member of the public, physically, emotionally, or sexually abusing or neglecting a child, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare.   |
| <b>What could happen?</b>  | <p>A child could be abused or neglected by another service user, a visitor to HSE services, or a member of the public, while availing of or attending HSE services.</p> <p>A child could be bullied, or discriminated against resulting in harm to the child.</p>   |
| <b>How could it happen?</b>  | <p>A child could be harmed by another service user, visitor or member of the public while availing of services</p> <p>This could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in a shared space or waiting area</li> <li>- while on outings as part of the service being provided</li> <li>- because the service is co-located with another service attended by persons who may pose a risk to children</li> <li>- because parents/guardians may not be aware that it is their responsibility to supervise their children at all times</li> <li>- through contact with another service user or member of the public in an online forum.</li> <li>- as a result of the unauthorised taking and/or use of digital imagery, for example, photographs and videos being taken and shared without consent, modified or misused out of context, a vulnerable child being identified for the purpose of grooming and abuse</li> </ul> |
| <b>Why might it happen?</b>  | <p>This might happen because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a service user, visitor or member of the public wants to harm a child</li> <li>- there are inadequate levels of supervision</li> <li>- service users, visitors or members of the public can have diminished capacity</li> <li>- there is a lack of adequate security measures</li> <li>- staff do not recognise signs and symptoms of abuse</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>What might the impact be?</b>  | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child's health, development or welfare  |
| <b>Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?</b> | All staff   |
| <b>Controls</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Child Protection Policy</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Ant-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Code of Conduct</li> </ul> |

## Risk Three

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| <b>Risk 3 – Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member</b> |   |
| <b>Risk Description</b>   | There is a risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare.   |
| <b>What could happen?</b>   | A child could remain at risk, or could continue to experience abuse or neglect.   |
| <b>How could it happen?</b>   | <p>A staff member may not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recognise and/or report a disclosure of child abuse</li> <li>- recognise an admission or indication by an adult, or by a child, of abuse they have committed</li> <li>- recognise and/or report the signs and indicators of abuse or neglect</li> <li>- consider child safeguarding issues when working with adult service users</li> <li>- recognise and report a concern/risk to a child (identified or not) arising from an adult retrospective disclosure of child abuse</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- follow the HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy by reporting concerns to Tusla - Child and Family Agency, when they have reasonable grounds for concern</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Why might it happen?</b>   | <p>Because a staff member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not complete mandatory HSE training programme An Introduction to Children First</li> <li>- is not aware of their roles and responsibilities</li> <li>- does not adhere to Children First Guidance and the Alternative Entertainments Child Protection Policy and reporting procedure</li> <li>- is not aware of the protections under law for people who report reasonably and in good faith</li> <li>- chooses not to report and knowingly fails to discharge their duty of care</li> </ul> |
| <b>What might the impact be?</b>  | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child's health, development or welfare.   |
| <b>Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?</b> | All staff   |
| <b>Controls</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Child Protection Policy</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Ant-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Alternative Entertainment's Code of Conduct</li> </ul>   |

## Risk Four

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| <b>Risk 4 – Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child</b> |  |
| <b>Risk Description</b>  | There is a risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare. |
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| <b>What could happen?</b>   | A child could remain at risk, or could continue to experience abuse or neglect.   |
| <b>How could it happen?</b>   | <p>This could happen because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a child does not recognise what is happening to them as abuse or neglect</li> <li>- a child is not aware that they can speak to someone in the service about what is happening to them</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Why might it happen?</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A child is not provided with information about their rights.</li> <li>- Relevant information is not presented in a child friendly way.</li> <li>- There is no mechanism for children to make a complaint.</li> <li>- Children might not have appropriate or safe opportunities to disclose/report abuse or neglect.</li> </ul> |
| <b>What might the impact be?</b>  | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child's health, development or welfare  |
| <b>Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?</b> | All staff   |
| <b>Controls</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative Entertainment's Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Alternative Entertainment's Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>• Alternative Entertainment's Ant-Bullying Policy</li> <li>• Alternative Entertainment's Code of Conduct</li> </ul>   |

## Risk Five

| <b>Risk 5 – Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies</b> |   |
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| <b>Risk Description</b>  | There is a risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies, resulting in a child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare.  |
| <b>What could happen?</b>  | A child could be at risk of abuse or neglect if child safeguarding measures are not in place in the service and/or staff are not implementing existing measures.  |
| <b>How could it happen?</b>  | This could happen if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a service fails to undertake a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and develop a Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>- a service fails to implement the requirements of the Alternative Entertainments Child Protection Policy</li> <li>- Children First Governance Structures are not implemented or are ineffective</li> <li>- a service does not ensure that all staff complete the mandatory training An Introduction to Children First</li> </ul> |
| <b>Why might it happen?</b>  | It might happen because the service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- may not be aware of their responsibilities under Children First</li> <li>- may not be aware of their obligations under the Alternative Entertainments Child Protection Policy</li> <li>- may not have sufficient staffing capacity to implement Children First requirements.</li> <li>- does not check or monitor their compliance with their requirements under Children First</li> </ul>   |
| <b>What might the impact be?</b>   | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child's health, development or welfare.   |
| <b>Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?</b>  | All staff   |

**Controls**

- Alternative Entertainment’s Child Protection Policy
- Alternative Entertainment’s Child Safeguarding Statement
- Alternative Entertainment’s Ant-Bullying Policy

Alternative Entertainment’s Code of Conduct

**Risk Six****Risk 6 - Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact).**

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| <b>Risk Description</b>     | There is a risk of harm to a child when using ICT while attending a HSE service (includes social media, gaming, web access and electronic contact) resulting in a child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare.  |
| <b>What could happen?</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A child could be groomed for the purpose of exploitation through online platforms.</li> <li>- A child could be exposed to inappropriate content.</li> <li>- A child could be encouraged to engage in self-harming behaviours.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>How could it happen?</b> | <p>This could happen if a service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provides internet access with unfiltered access to online content.</li> <li>- allows a child to use Alternative Entertainments ICT equipment or personal devices and does not support or encourage children to develop safe and responsible online behaviours.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Why might it happen?</b> | <p>This might happen because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a service fails to implement Alternative Entertainments’ policies and procedures.</li> <li>- children have Alternative Entertainments internet access, and/or use of Alternative Entertainments devices and safe use is not considered or supported.</li> </ul>                |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- staff don't have awareness about online safety</li> <li>- the service has insufficient internet filters.</li> </ul>                |
| <b>What might the impact be?</b>  | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child's health, development or welfare  |
| <b>Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?</b> | All staff   |
| <b>Controls</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative Entertainment's Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Alternative Entertainment's Child Safeguarding Statement</li> </ul> |