



Smithstown Lodge, Julianstown, Co. Meath

Phone: 041 9811956

[smithstown@rainbows.ie](mailto:smithstown@rainbows.ie)

## ***Smithstown Lodge: Information for Parents***

### **What is Smithstown Lodge**

Smithstown Lodge is a residential facility offering high quality, short to medium term care for teenagers

### **Manager and Staffing**

Kieran O'Sullivan is the manager of Smithstown Lodge and is committed to a high standard of professional care. He leads a qualified, highly motivated team of Social Care Leaders and Social Care Workers as well as a team of relief workers.

### **What we do**

Smithstown Lodge strives to provide a high quality, needs led service, offering each young person the opportunity to grow and develop as an individual in a safe, child centered, trusting environment.

We offer a range of programmes and activities, individually designed by the Keyworker, to help young people build confidence in their achievements and ambitions for the challenges they will face throughout their lives.

We aim to help each young person grow and develop to their full potential, receiving the best possible resources in assisting them to lead a positive and well balanced life.

### **Smithstown Lodge – The Home**

Smithstown Lodge is a large, bright, modern house situated near Julianstown, Co. Meath. All bedrooms are private, spacious and have their own en-suite, toilet and shower. There is a lot of space throughout the house for privacy, access visits, plus indoor and outdoor activities.

### **Life at Smithstown Lodge**

Our professional, highly qualified team recognise the individual, physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual needs of each young person. We aim to meet these needs through individual Placement Plans in accordance with the 'National Standards for Residential Care'. These standards ensure that your child will be well looked after.

Your child will be encouraged to:

- Join any local clubs that have an interest in e.g., dancing clubs, youth clubs, sports clubs etc.
- Join in on group or individual activities in and outside the house, e.g., going to the cinema, swimming, going for walks, etc.
- Visit their friends and have friends over to visit.
- We also encourage family visits as this is agreed by the Social Worker.

### **Family Contact**

We encourage and welcome family contact – access arrangements should be written in your Child's Care Plan, i.e., where and when visits take place and whether these visits must be supervised or not.

Whatever arrangements are made for access visits we will always aim to make your visit a happy one. This will be made possible through mutual respect between all concerned.

We will always make sure that you are kept up to date on matters concerning your child's life and where possible we will include you in making decisions regarding your child's life.

If you have any questions regarding your child you can contact the staff at Smithstown Lodge, we will be happy to help you. You can phone your child whenever you want and they will also be able to phone you.

### **Education**

Every young person is entitled to an education. Your child will attend a school or a course while they are living here. If it is practical we will facilitate your child to attend their current school / course. We will ensure that your child gets all the educational help they need in order to succeed in their education.

We will attend school meetings regarding your child and we will also encourage you to do so. Staff in Smithstown Lodge will guide and support your child with their homework / study. Your child will be encouraged to go into higher education or training; we will help them to find something that best suits your child's abilities. All school expenses will be taken care of while living in Smithstown lodge e.g., school uniforms, school trips, books, stationary, etc.

### **Clothing**

While your child is living in Smithstown Lodge we will ensure that they have / get all the clothes they need e.g., runners, shoes, underwear, casual clothes, school uniforms.

### **Pocket Money**

Your child will get pocket money from us each week. The amount depends on their age. This money is not expected to cover the cost of their toiletries, clothes, activities, etc. Smithstown Lodge will provide money for these things.

### **Health**

Your child will receive whatever medical treatment they need, including dental, optical or any kind of specialist treatment that might be necessary. The cost of any treatment will be covered either by their medical card or by Smithstown Lodge.

### **Care Plan**

Your child will have a Care Plan while they are living in care. All those that care for your child will be involved in writing up this plan, including you. This plan will outline important issues in relation to your child e.g., the kind of care that is suitable for them, their educational needs, health care needs, any specific needs e.g., counselling, their religious beliefs and hobbies, etc. This plan ensures that everybody working with your child knows their exact needs and how to give them the best possible chance in life, school, in their placement and with their family.

### **Complaints**

If you are not happy with the care that your child is being given you have the right to make a complaint. If you wish to make a complaint you can make it to Kieran O'Sullivan, the manager of Smithstown Lodge, or to the Director of Services of Smithstown Lodge, Grace Madzikanda, or to your child's Social Worker.

All complaints are taken seriously and are dealt with promptly. Complaints are notified to the relevant person as soon as possible. If you make a complaint to the Manager or Director of Smithstown Lodge we will do everything we can to try and resolve it for you. If it is not resolved it will be passed onto your child's Social Worker, s/he will aim to resolve this complaint and if this is not possible it will go further until your complaint is resolved.

If you are unhappy with the outcome you can appeal it. All this will be dealt with in the quickest possible manner. You will be guided and supported in the event that you need to make a complaint.

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Smithstown Lodge has a Child Safeguarding Statement which outlines how staff will keep your child safe. This document is on display inside the unit (see below).

# Smithstown Lodge Child Safeguarding Statement

## **1. RAINBOW COMMUNITY SERVICES – Smithstown Lodge**

Rainbow Community Services is a private organisation that was established in 2005. Our ethos of care is underpinned by the core values of respect for our clients, partnership, empowerment, holistic development and solution focused interventions. We aim to provide our clients with an effective continuum of professional care that is focused on meeting their needs in a multiplicity of key life areas.

Smithstown Lodge is a mainstream residential home in Julianstown, Co. Meath for adolescents, both male and female, aged 12-18 years of age. It can accommodate up to five young people at any one time. The management and staff at Smithstown Lodge endeavour to provide a high standard of care to each young person in an open, trusting, safe and caring environment which promotes individual growth through learning and positive life experiences. In this process, we respect the rights and choices of each young person and work to their best interests at all times.

## **2. PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM**

The management and staff team in Smithstown Lodge are committed to the safeguarding of children through the following processes:

- Comprehensive recruitment and vetting of all staff employed by the company.
- All staff have received up-to-date Child Protection training.
- All Staff are TCI trained to allow them to manage challenging behaviours.
- Safety management policies are in place as per our policies and procedures.

## **3. MANDATED PERSONS**

Mandated persons (as defined in the Children First Act, 2015) are persons who, by virtue of their training, responsibilities and experience, should have an awareness of issues relating to child protection. These professionals either work with children or young people or they are in service sectors that encounter adults or families and children where there is risk of abuse and neglect.

In line with the above, the staff of Smithstown Lodge are all mandated persons and are required to report child abuse above a defined threshold which comes to their attention in the course of their professional or employment duties. They are also required to report any direct disclosures of abuse from a child. All mandated persons are aware of the procedure for reporting child abuse via the online Tulsa Portal.

Sometimes Smithstown Lodge will take social care students on placement. These students are not deemed mandated persons. As a result, students interact with young persons in the presence of qualified staff. Students cannot take out young persons for activities on their own; neither can they drive unit cars. All students are Garda vetted. All students on placement in Smithstown Lodge will be allocated a supervisor from the team. The supervisor should be qualified in social care. No young persons will be left unattended with any non-mandated person. If maintenance work is being carried out on-site, staff will ensure that this work will be supervised by staff so that no young person is left alone.

**The Designated Liaison Person for Smithstown Lodge is the Manager (Kieran O’Sullivan).**

#### **4. STAFFING AND TRAINING**

Smithstown Lodge is staffed by qualified 9 Social Care Workers, 3 Social Care Leaders, 2 Relief Staff, 1 Deputy Social Care Manager and 1 Social Care Manager. Staffing qualifications include Applied Social Studies in Social Care; Psychology; Youth and Community Work. All staff will receive training in Children First and all other mandatory training (Fire Safety, First Aid Responder, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention).

#### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks, available on request.

<b>RISK</b>	<b>PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK</b>
Bullying	Staff have completed anti-bullying training. This risk would be managed as per our anti-bullying policy.
Child harmed by visitor to the centre	Child Safeguarding Policy; No visitor is to be left alone with a child at any stage.
Child harmed by member of staff	Lone Working Policy; Child Protection Policy; all staff are Garda vetted. Adequate staff ratio.
Child subject to harm from other child in our service	Child Protection Policy; adequate/increased staffing ratios; safety planning, strategy meetings, anti-bullying policy, care plans and placement plans as to identify needs. Clear communication with Social Workers and guardians. Garda investigation where necessary. Discharge of child if placement cannot be continued safely.
Risk of abuse or abduction in relation to family access	Child Protection Policy; child protection reporting procedures as per Children First National Guidelines. Garda involvement and Tusla involvement.
Child harmed via internet access/activities	Online Safety Policy.

All procedures and policies listed are available on request.

#### **6. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND 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.

- Procedure in respect of any member of staff/volunteer who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child availing of our service.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- 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.

## 7. 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 will be reviewed again on the **04/08/2024** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

A copy of this statement has been published on the service website ([www.rainbows.ie](http://www.rainbows.ie)) and is displayed in a prominent place on the premises.

It has been provided to all staff members, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. A copy has been provided to parents and guardians.

A copy of this statement will be made available to Tusla and members of the public if requested.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kieran O'Sullivan (Manager)

Date: **05/08/2023**

For further information on this statement, contact the Designated Liaison Person:  
Kieran O'Sullivan, Manager, Smithstown Lodge, 041-9811956