

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Tusla I.D.: | TU2015FL112 |
|--------------------|-------------|

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Name of Service | Sophia Nurturing Centre Donabate |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Address of Service: | Hazel Grove, Portrane Road, Donabate, Co Dublin, K36 HR56 |
|----------------------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Email Address: | jsheehy@sophia.ie |
|-----------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Name of Registered Provider: | Jennifer Foran |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------|---|
| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | ✓ | Part-Time | ✓ | Sessional | ✓ |
| | Drop-In | | Childminding | | Temporary | |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Proposed change: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change in Service Type from Part Time and Sessional to Full Day Care, Part Time and Sessional. Proposed change in hours of operation from 8.30am-12.30pm/1.30pm – 4.45pm to 8.30am – 6.00pm. |
|-------------------------|--|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Proposed Number of Children: | 15 (No Change) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|---|--|
| Recommended Change Following Inspection: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change in Service Type from Part Time and Sessional to Full Day Care, Part Time and Sessional. Proposed change in hours of operation from 8.30am-12.30pm/1.30pm – 4.45pm to 8.30am – 6.00pm. |
|---|--|

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Registered change: | Change in Service Type from Part Time and Sessional to Full Day Care, Part Time and Sessional. Change in Hours of Operation from 8.30am-12.30pm/1.30pm – 4.45pm to 8.30am – 6.00pm. |
|---------------------------|--|

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date of Inspection: | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Inspection undertaken by: | S. Cully |
|----------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Title: | Early Years Inspector |
|---------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|--|---|
| Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: | Early Years Inspectorate |
| | 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, |
| | Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6. |

| |
|--|
| Rationale for Inspection: |
| Proposed Change of Circumstance |

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Registration Status: | Registered Full Day/Part Time/Sessional Service for 15 Children |
| Date of Registration | 16 th July 2024 |

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Description of Service | Sophia Nurturing Centre Donabate is an early years service established in 2005 in a housing association project which provides short term accommodation and support to families and individuals who are emerging from homelessness. The service is currently registered to provide part time and sessional preschool to children between the ages 0-6 years and operate 2 sessions from 8.30am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.45pm. Currently, the afternoon session is not in operation. The service is also registered to provide School Age care. The service is proposing to change registration details to accommodate children on a full-time basis between the hours of 8.30am – 6.00pm. This would allow the service to provide emergency childcare for families attending the project who may need to make appointments or due to unforeseen family support needs or child welfare and protection matters. |
| Premises | Sophia Nurturing Centre Donabate operates from a purpose-built facility within the Sophia Housings Donabate project. The service consists of one spacious care room with a small adjoining room used for messy play, sanitary facilities, a kitchen and an office. The service has an enclosed outdoor play space on the premises designated for use by the Nurturing Centre only. |
| Staffing | The registered provider works directly with the children in the service in addition to administration duties. The childcare resource coordinator was present on the day of inspection to support as needed and is available to the service as relief staff when required. One staff member is employed through a community employment scheme. A member of staff is currently on statutory leave. |
| Methodology | <p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity; completeness; and, compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p> |
| Acknowledgements | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection. |

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

There is a designated person in charge and a named person is available to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6. The registered provider has ensured that an adequate number of adults would be available at all times to work directly with the children in the service.

(8)(a) The person in charge ensures that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The physical and material environment is suitable for children attending on full day care basis. The care room is spacious and has defined interest areas such as the cosy/reading

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

area, puzzle area, home corner, construction area, arts area and sensory/relaxation area. A variety of materials resource each area and are available on low level shelving for ease of access. The section of the room designated for sensory processing/relaxation supports children with emotional regulation. There is a small room between the care room and kitchen for messy play activities such as sand trays, water play and painting.

(1)(b) The requirement has been met.

On approval of change to the register, full day care will be offered to families on a case-by-case basis such as, to attend appointments or in the case of an emergency. To accommodate sleep needs of children requiring full day care, the registered provider has 2 foldable cots with mattresses and sleep mats for children over 24 months. The quieter part of the room will be used for sleep time. The registered provider is aware of the national safe sleep best practice guidelines. There is a large sofa in the care room, along with small child sized sofas and armchairs for children to casually rest or take a break from play throughout the day.

(2)(b) The requirement has been met.

There is an enclosed outdoor area that suitable and secure. With an impact absorbing surface, the outdoor space has a range of materials and equipment for children including wall mounted activity boards and a playhouse which provides shelter for outdoor activities.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service provides all snacks and meals for children attending the service. Hot meals and snacks are prepared onsite. Children’s individual dietary requirements are catered for. A 3-week menu of breakfast, snacks and meals is available. Potable drinking and milk is available to the children throughout the day.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - *Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child*

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The registered provider has implemented appropriate measures in the service to ensure the safety of the children.

- The external doors and gate are appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The internal doors and windows are appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The furniture and materials in the care rooms were in good and hygienic condition.
- The service has cleaning checklists on display throughout the care room and premises.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service along with soap and paper hand towels.
- Cleaning agents are stored out of reach of children.
- Single use disposable aprons and gloves are available at the nappy changing unit.
- A template was available to be used as a sleep check record in the event of a child requiring sleep. The record facilitates the documentation of the duration of children’s sleep and 10-minute observations of children’s colour, position, and breathing patterns.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that a person trained in first aid for children is at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) First aid boxes are suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A record was maintained of fire drills that take place in the service. The most recent fire drill was recorded to have been carried out 05/07/24.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced April 2024 and the fire detection and alarm system was last serviced April 2024.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire and evacuation maps were available and displayed in each care room.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

(29)(a) – (e) The requirement has been met.

(a) The premises appears to be in good condition throughout and of sound structure.

(b) The premises appears safe and is found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years service.

(c)

Lighting:

The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The premises is heated by means of gas fired central heating.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. Mechanical ventilation is available in the sanitary facilities.

(e) Adequate sanitary accommodation is provided.

Accessible from the hallway, there is a sanitary facility with 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin designated for us by adults.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>A second sanitary facility is also accessible from the hallway and consists of 1 child-sized toilet and wash hand basin. Adjoined to this, is a wheelchair accessible toilet along with a nappy changing station, adult wash hand basin and a second child wash hand basin.</p> <p>There is a wash hand basin accessible from the care room located in the adjoining space designated for messy play.</p> |
|--|--|

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Requirement met: | <p>(30) (1) & (2) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a maximum of 15 children aged between 0-6 years attending on a full-time basis.</p> <p>(2) The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7. The clear floor space in the main care room is 53.489 square metres. There is additional clear floor space in the adjoining ‘messy play’ room of 6.212 square metres.</p> |
|-------------------------|--|