



The Lisa Maria Foundation

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG

Press Release 24th October 2024 – Reaction to Child Protection Services Article dated 22nd October 2024

The Lisa Maria Foundation is deeply concerned about the article in the Times of Malta on the 22nd October, which stated that Child Protection Services do not have enough staff to cope with the amount of children and youth being referred regarding concerns of abuse.

Whilst it is unclear whether the amount of child abuse reports have nearly doubled in the last three years due to an increase in awareness, increase in abuse or due to many professionals becoming mandatory reporters, solutions must be found to ensure that children are not left at risk. We encourage children to speak up and report abuse, but to then be placed on a waiting list and left in abusive situations, echos the message that these children are not being heard.

Acquiring professional and qualified staff to work in the social field is becoming more and more difficult by the day, and in a sensitive area such as Child Protection this of course is even more difficult. However this needs to be a national priority, with every possible resource thrown at it, to ensure that children are kept safe.

The Lisa Maria Foundation would also like to emphasise the importance of adopting a proactive approach to safeguarding which makes sure that all of the checks, balances, awareness and safeguarding measures are in place, in a bid to focus as much on the prevention than on the cure. This in itself will hopefully reduce the amount of reports to child protection and the strain that this is causing on the system.

Nothing is as important as the safety and wellbeing of children. Let our laws, obligations, resources and policies reflect this message too. The effects of childhood abuse can be carried for years with long, devastating effects. We cannot afford that our children also lose faith in a system which is meant to protect them, so we must do all we can to be their safeguard.

The Lisa Maria Foundation
Alpine House, Naxxar Road, San Gwann, SGN 9032

Tel: +356 25762302 Email: info@lisamaria-foundation.org Web: www.lisamaria-foundation.org