

Enable Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

Enable Ireland is a national organisation providing supports for children with disability and their families. Evidence has shown that children with a disability are over 3 times more likely to experience abuse compared to children who do not have a disability. Enable Ireland recognises the additional needs of children with disabilities and the barriers they may face, especially around communication.

Enable Ireland is compliant with the Children First Act 2015 and the Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

We are committed to safeguarding children and providing a safe environment for them when engaging in our services. We recognise the right of children to be protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to and have their views taken into consideration in matters that affect them.

Enable Ireland will endeavour to safeguard children by having a clear written policy and procedure to support staff to recognise, respond and report concerns about child protection and welfare. It applies to all children under 18 years of age.

2. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

We will seek to safeguard children by:

Staff, Volunteers and Students

- Having robust recruitment practices ensuring all required checks are made.
- Delivering a training programme for staff to provide a shared understanding of child protection issues to inform planning and practice.
- Providing regular supervision and support for all staff, volunteers and students who are in contact with children.
- Having clearly defined roles for all staff within the organisation including those that are mandated to report under Children First.
- Nominating a Designated Liaison Person who will support all staff through any stage of the safeguarding process with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- Having clear protocols for recording and storing information on child protection and welfare concerns.

For children and Parents/Guardians

- Providing information for families about child protection and good practice throughout their time with our service.
- Supporting children who have difficulty communicating concerns.
- Clear guidelines for staff around communication with parents, regarding specific concerns relating to their child. The safety and well-being of the child must always take priority.

Working with other Agencies

- Sharing information and concerns with Tusla and other relevant agencies and providing assistance as required.
- Where services are delivered in partnership with other agencies Enable Ireland will together with these agencies ensure clear protocols are in place for all staff.

ENABLE IRELAND DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON/DEPUTY DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

Location	Title	Name	Address
Enable Ireland Sandymount Avenue Dublin 4	Designated Liaison Person	Mary Ballance	Sandymount
	Deputy	Mary Fox	Sandymount
		Margaret Costello	Sandymount
Enable Ireland Scoil Iosa Tymon North Tallaght Dublin 24	Designated Liaison Person	Frankie Barrett	Tallaght
	Deputy	Erica Calder	Tallaght
Enable Ireland Jigginstown Naas Co. Kildare	Designated Liaison Person	Frankie Barrett	Talaght
	Deputy	Anelle Marynowski	Kildare
	Deputy	Emer Haastrup	Kildare
Enable Ireland Unit 13 Mulllaghboy Ind Est Navan Co. Meath	Designated Liaison Person	Mary Fox	Navan
	Deputy	Yvonne Ridley	Navan
		Tracey White	Kells
Enable Ireland Climber Hall Oldcastle Road Kells Co. Meath	Designated Person Liaison	Mary Fox	Navan
	Deputy	Yvonne Ridley	Navan
		Tracey White	Kells
Enable Ireland Lisieux House, St. Joseph's Hospital Complex, Trim Co. Meath	Designated Person Liaison	Mary Fox	Navan

Organisation	Title	Name	Location
Enable Ireland Lisieux House, St. Joseph's Hospital Complex, Trim Co. Meath	Deputy	Yvonne Ridley	Navan
		Tracey White	Kells
Enable Ireland Unit 2 Aerbridge House Dunshaughlin Business Park Dunshaughlin Co. Meath	Designated Liaison Person	Mary Fox	Navan
	Deputy	Yvonne Ridley	Navan
		Tracey White	Kells
Enable Ireland Hillside Rathcorrick Cavan	Designated Liaison Person	Jane Hand	Cavan
Enable Ireland Hillside Rathcorrick Cavan	Deputy	Heather Ritchie	Cavan
		Mary Fox	Navan
Enable Ireland Errigal House St. Davnets Campus Rooskey Monaghan	Designated Liaison Person	Jane Hand	Monaghan
	Deputy	Heather Ritchie	Cavan
		Mary Fox	Navan
Enable Ireland Marino Centre Church Road Bray Co. Wicklow	Designated Liaison Person	Frankie Barrett	Wicklow
	Deputy (Job Share)	Frances Fitzell	Wicklow
		Elaine Brennan	Wicklow
Enable Ireland Bridgewater Centre Arklow Co Wicklow	Designated Liaison Person	Frankie Barrett	Wicklow
	Deputy	Margaret Maher	Arklow
		Elaine Murray	Arklow
		Julie Bunsworth	Arklow

Organisation	Title	Name	Location
Enable Ireland Silverpines Respite house Killarney Lane Bray Co Wicklow	Designated Liaison Person	Frankie Barrett	Wicklow
	Deputy	Audrey Reddington	Wicklow
Enable Ireland O'Neill Centre St. Joseph's Road Kilkenny	Designated Liaison Person	Paula Rudkins	Kilkenny
	Deputy	Helen Murphy	Kilkenny
Enable Ireland Lavanagh Centre Ballintemple Cork	Designated Liaison person	Niall Horgan	Cork
	Deputy	Donncha Geary	Cork
Enable Ireland Orchard Way Oakview Village Tralee Co. Kerry	Designated Liaison Person	Niall Horgan	Cork
	Deputy	Maria Leydon	Kerry
Enable Ireland Limerick Blackberry Park Ballykeefe Limerick	Designated Liaison Person	Annemarie Dineen (School Age Team) Patricia Lilley (Early Intervention Team)	Limerick
	Deputy	Anne Long	Limerick
Mid-West Family Support, c/o Blackberry Park Ballykeefe Limerick	Designated Liaison Person	Coleen Dalton	Limerick
	Deputys	Margaret Dixon Tony Murphy	Ennis Limerick
Enable Ireland Clare Lifford Road Ennis Co. Clare	Designated Liaison Person	Ann Ryan	Ennis
	Deputy	Tony Murphy	Limerick

Organisation	Title	Name	Location
North Tipperary Children Services Belmont St Conlons Road Nenagh Co. Tipperary.	Designated Liaison Person	Joanne McNamara	North Tipperary
	Deputy	Tony Murphy	Limerick
Teach Saoirse, Joe Daly Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	Designated Liaison Person	Debbie Finn	North Tipperary
	Deputy	Tony Murphy	Limerick
Eden Lodge, Ennis, Co. Clare	Designated Liaison Person	Tony Murphy	Limerick
	Deputy	Anne Long	Limerick
Enable Ireland Seamus Quirke Road Newcastle Galway	Designated Liaison Person	Clare Lenehan	Galway
	Deputy	Dave Travis	Galway
Enable Ireland 14A N5 Business Park Moneen Castlebar Co. Mayo	Designated Liaison Person	Clare Lenehan	Galway
	Deputy	Elizabeth Burke	Mayo

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*, the Board of Management/Service Provider has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk
<p><u>Role of the Designated Liaison Person:</u> The Children’s First 2017, provides a brief outline on the role of Designated Liaison Person (DLP) which has the potential to generate certain confusion for the reader. It states that where a mandated person has a concern that the obligation to report under the Childrens First Act, 2015 must be discharged by the mandated person and cannot be discharged by the DLP. However, the 2017 Guidelines goes on to state: “While mandated persons have statutory obligations to report mandated concerns, they may make them jointly with another person, whether the other person is a mandated person or not. In effect, this means that a mandated person can make a joint report with a designated person”.</p>	<p><i>Protocol for the Protection and Welfare of Children policy</i> being updated to clarify the roles of both Mandated Persons and DLPs.</p> <p>Training in new policy to be rolled out to staff.</p> <p>Interim instruction issued to Mandated Persons and DLP’s pending the revision of the policy.</p>
<p><u>Possible failure by staff to recognise abuse:</u> Thresholds re risk and what constitutes as a child protection concern can vary by individual. Opportunities for discussion re attitudes, self -awareness / reflection need to be built into supervision, training, team meetings etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing training to be provided in recognising child welfare / protection concerns, to staff both nationally & locally.</p> <p>Over time it will become clearer how we will be more involved in Tusla’s evolving assessment processes & the implications of this.</p>
<p><u>Language & Communication:</u> Significant number of service users for whom English is not their first language.</p>	<p>Ongoing access to interpreter services will be arranged.</p>
<p><u>Recording of Concerns:</u> Possible lack of confidence by staff in documenting impact of concerns on child welfare. i.e. DNA’s. How much detail vs time to complete recording. Recording of decision making process not always clear.</p>	<p>Ongoing training for staff to be provided regarding the recording of concerns.</p>
<p><u>Communicating with Parents & Guardians:</u> The process for discussing a concern with parents/guardians before reporting and the circumstances in which this is not advised, as it may further endanger the child or the person making the report.</p>	<p>Ongoing training to be provided to staff regarding process for communicating effectively with parents and guardians.</p>

<p><u>Liaison with staff in Enable Ireland Special Schools:</u> Overlapping structure where a child attends both school and service. Clear protocols and coordination required.</p>	<p>Protocol for joint management of concerns in respect of a student in a special school, to be updated with revised with: <i>Protocol for the Protection and Welfare of Children policy.</i></p>
<p><u>Inter-agency Structures:</u> Overlapping structure where a child attends joint agency service e.g. Child Disability Network Team (Progressing Disabilities). Clear protocols and coordination required and the need for consolidated policy and child protection training across the participating agencies for the purpose of a standardised response in safeguarding children with a disability.</p>	<p>We will continue to work with partner agencies to ensure clarity for all stakeholders and clear guidelines for staff in dealing with concerns on child welfare.</p>

4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As by the *Children First Act 2015* and *Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare* required of *Children*, 2017 the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place:

- Protocol for the Protection and Welfare of Children policy (under review)
- Pathways of Service Delivery for Children and Families Code of Practice
- Information Management (including confidentiality)
- Protected Disclosures Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Protocol for the Application of Trust in Care Policy In Enable Ireland
- Recruitment & Selection Procedure
- Garda Vetting & Garda Re-Vetting Policies
- Codes of standard and behaviour
- Lone Working Policy
- Guidelines for Effective Working Relationship of Service User and Personal Assistants/Support Workers/Home Support Workers/Family Support Workers/Link Workers and Service Users(Children's Services)
- Guidelines on Dealing with Bullying Incidents Relating to Children and Young People
- Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.
- Complaints Policy
- Day Trips & Overnight Stays Policy
- Accident/Incident Reporting, Analysis and Investigation Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Responding to Service Users that self-harm

- Behaviours that Challenge Policy
- Risk Management Services Division Policy & Procedure
- Mobile Phone & Smart Device Policy
- Use of Restraints in Designated Centres
- Training and Development Policy - All staff have completed the HSE/Tusla eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First*.

Note: *The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. All procedures listed are available on request.*

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- 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 every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- This statement has been published on the service website and is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.

Signed: John O'Sullivan

Date: 11th March 2018

Service Provider's name and contact details:

For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person:

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