

Enable Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

Enable Ireland is a national organisation providing supports for children and young persons with disability and their families. Enable Ireland recognises the additional needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people 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 young people 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 and young people by having a clear written policy and procedure to support staff to recognise, respond and report concerns about child protection and welfare. This applies to all children and young people under 18 years of age.

2. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

We will seek to safeguard children in the following ways:

We do this in relation to Staff Volunteers and Students by:

- Having robust recruitment practices ensuring all required Garda/Police vetting, professional registration, and reference checks are made.
- Delivering a training programme for all staff to provide a shared understanding of child protection issues to inform planning and practice, including mandatory child protection training. We will prioritise keeping children first training up to date.
- 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.
- Ensure all staff /volunteers/students complete child protection training on HSEland.

We do this in relation to children/ young people and Parents/Guardians by:

- Providing information for families about child protection and good practice throughout their time with our service.
- Supporting children who have difficulty communicating concerns.
- Having 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
- Having a clear written protocol available and displayed in all centres with list of Designated Liaison Persons and Deputy DLPs attached.

We do this in relation to working with other Agencies by:

- Sharing information and concerns with Tusla and other relevant agencies and providing assistance as required.
- Ensuring clear protocols are in place for all staff, where services are delivered in partnership with other agencies

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>Clarification of the Role of the Designated Liaison Person and the Mandated person:</u></p> <p>The 2017 Guidelines 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Enable Ireland <i>Protocol for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2021</i> clarified that Mandated Persons can consult with the DLP, however “the legal obligation rests with the Mandated Person and not with the DLP”. It should be noted that in some instances the Mandated person may also be a DLP. • Lists of DLP,s and Mandated persons are clear • Training in policy to be rolled out to all new staff and refreshed on a two yearly basis to all staff.
<p><u>Possible failure by staff to recognise abuse:</u></p> <p>Thresholds re risk and what constitutes as a child protection concern can vary by individual.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing training to be provided in recognising child welfare / protection concerns, to staff both nationally & locally. • Child welfare will be a rolling agenda item at team meetings. • Support and supervision structures in place and should include discussion on protection and welfare • Opportunities for discussion re attitudes, self-awareness / reflection need to be built into supervision, training, team meetings etc.
<p><u>Language & Communication:</u> Significant number of service users for whom English is not their first language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring access to interpreter services as required.
<p><u>Recording of Concerns:</u> Possible lack of confidence by staff in documenting impact of concerns on child welfare. i.e. DNA’s (not attending appointments). Recording of decision making process must be clear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support for staff will be provided regarding the recording of concerns as part of training in the area.
<p><u>Communicating with Parents & Guardians:</u> Lack of parental knowledge of what constitutes a cause for concern</p> <p>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring all parents are given information on Enable Ireland’s Child Protection and welfare policy and procedures. • Ongoing support for staff will be required regarding process for communicating effectively with parents and guardians.

<p><u>Liaison with staff in Enable Ireland Special Schools:</u></p> <p><i>The Protocol for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2019</i> defined the overlapping structure where a child attends both school and service. Protocols and coordination have been developed involving clear communication between the school and service DLP's.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The protocol (s.15.0) states “If an employee of Enable Ireland, based in a service that is co-located with a special school, becomes aware of suspected, alleged or disclosed child abuse he/she must follow Enable Ireland’s reporting procedure. The staff member should inform the relevant Enable Ireland DLP. • If the concern is not related to the school, the Enable Ireland DLP should inform the school’s DLP (usually the Principal) that a concern has arisen in relation to the child but it is not necessary to share the nature or details of the concern in all cases; The schools DLP must have a bona fide need to know...”
<p><u>Inter-agency Structures:</u></p> <p>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Keeping children & young people safe from online harm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable Ireland acknowledges the central role of the internet in all of our lives and the responsibility to support children and young people to keep safe from harm online. Children should be supported and encouraged to develop safe and responsible online behaviours. Enable will work in partnership with families and other agencies to support and develop safe and responsible on-line behaviours.

4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

- Protocol for the Protection and Welfare of Children policy 2021
- Pathways of Service Delivery for Children and Families Code of Practice
- Information Management Policy (including confidentiality)
- Protected Disclosures Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Protocol for the Application of Trust in Care Policy
- Recruitment & Selection Policy & Procedure
- Garda Vetting Policy
- Codes of Standards and Behaviour Policy
- Lone Workers Policy
- Guidelines for Working Together Effectively Personal Assistants/Support Workers/Home Support Workers/Family Support Workers/Link Workers and Service Users (Children's Services)
- Policy on Dealing with Bullying Incidents Relating to Children and Young People
- Supervision and Support Policy & Procedure
- Complaints Policy
- Day Trips & Overnight Stays Policy
- Accident/Incident Reporting, Analysis and Investigation Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Responding to Service Users that Self-Harm Policy & Procedure
- Policy and Guidelines for Providing Positive Services and Supports in Response to Behaviours that Challenge
- Services Division Risk Management Policy & Procedure
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Use of Restraints in Designated Centres Policy & Procedure
- National Training and Development Policy

Note 1:

- *The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. All policies and procedures listed are available on request.*

Note 2:

- All staff are required to complete the HSE/Tusla eLearning module - *Introduction to Children First*.
- *Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the service policy.*

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- We recognise that implementation and review are 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 and young people 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 is 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:



Date: 23.11.2021

National Director of Services

Insert Service Provider's name and contact details for Designated Liaison Person and Deputy here:

Enable Ireland (Centre Name)				
Address	Designated Liaison Person	Name	Base	Contact No.
	Deputy	Name	Base	Contact No.

For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person:

Ms Mary Fox,
National Director of Services,
Enable Ireland,
Email: nationaldirector@enableireland.ie

CHO1				
Cavan				
Enable Ireland, Hillside, Rathcorrick, Cavan	Designated Liaison Person	Jane Hand	Monaghan	087 6831045
	Deputy	Heather Ritchie	Cavan	087 6840848
Monaghan				
Enable Ireland, Errigal House, St. Davnet's Campus, Rooskey, Monaghan	Designated Liaison Person	Jane Hand	Monaghan	087 6831045
	Deputy	Heather Ritchie	Cavan	087 6840848
CHO2				
Galway				
Enable Ireland, Seamus Quirke Road Newcastle, Galway	Designated Liaison Person	Clare Lenehan	Galway	087 9684284
	Deputy	Anna Newell	Galway	085 8707239
Mayo				
Enable Ireland, 12A, N5 Business Park Moneen, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	Designated Liaison Person	Clare Lenehan	Galway	087 9684284
	Deputy	Elizabeth Burke	Mayo	087 6920712
CHO3				
Limerick CS				
Enable Ireland Limerick Children's Services Blackberry Park Ballykeefe, Limerick	Designated Liaison Person	Annemarie Dineen (School Age Team)	Limerick	086 7948236
	Designated Liaison Person	Katie Metelko		085 8874496
	Deputy (Early Intervention Team)	Anne Long		087 2514319
Midwest Family Support (Limerick)				
Mid-West Family Support, c/o Blackberry Park Ballykeefe, Limerick	Designated Liaison Person	Tony Murphy	Limerick	087 2861460
	Deputy	Anne Long		087 2514319
North Tipperary Children Services				
Belmont, St. Conlon's Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	Designated Liaison Person	Colette Ryan	North Tipperary	087 2582204
	Deputy	Joanne McNamara		085 8034314
Midwest Family Support Teach Saoirse				
Joe Daly Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	Designated Liaison Person	Debbie Finn	North Tipperary	087 9669880
	Deputy	Tony Murphy	Limerick	087 2861460
Eden Lodge				
Ennis, Co. Clare	Designated Liaison Person	Cecile Charbonnel	Clare	085 8712637
	Deputy	Tony Murphy	Limerick	087 2861460
Midwest Family Support (Ennis)				

Mid-West Family Support, c/o Enable Ireland, Clonroad Business Park, Ennis Co. Clare.	Designated Liaison Person	Margaret Dixon	Ennis	087 9671351
	Deputy	Tony Murphy	Limerick	087 2861460
CHO4				
Cork Children's Services				
Enable Ireland, Curraheen Road, Bishopstown, Cork	Designated Liaison Person	Niall Horgan	Cork	085 8011362
	Deputy Liaison Person	Maria Kirby		085 8566315
Kerry Services				
Enable Ireland, Orchard Way, Oakview Village, Tralee, Co. Kerry	Designated Liaison Person	Maria Leyden	Kerry	087 6899058
	Deputy	Niall Horgan	Cork	085 8011362
CHO5				
Kilkenny				
Enable Ireland O'Neill Centre, St. Joseph's Road, Kilkenny	Designated Liaison Person	Paula Rudkins	Kilkenny	087 9907232
	Deputy	Helen Murphy		087 1326379
CHO6				
Sandymount Centre				
Sandymount Avenue, Dublin 4.	Designated Liaison Person	Mary Balance	Sandymount	087-2765930
	Deputy	Frankie Barrett		087 2198951
Marino Centre				
Church Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Designated Liaison Person	Frances Fitzell	Sandymount	087-7380619
	Deputy	Elaine Brennan	Marino	087-7759240
Arklow				
Enable Ireland Arklow, Avoca River House, North Quay, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Designated Liaison Person	Frances Fitzell	Sandymount	087-7380619
	Deputy	Margaret Maher	Arklow	085-8084521
	Deputy	Julie Bunworth		085 8083160
Silverpines				
Respite House, Killarney Lane, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Designated Liaison Person	Frankie Barrett	Sandymount	087 2198951
	Deputy	Audrey Reddington	Arklow	087 2922335
SeatTech				
Sandymount Avenue, Dublin 4.	Designated Liaison Person	John Tiernan	Sandymount	085 7333388
	Deputy	Siobhan Long		087 6570364
National Assistive Technology				
Sandymount Avenue, Dublin 4.	Designated Liaison Person	Siobhan Long	Sandymount	087 6570364
	Deputy	Juliann Bergin	Sandymount	087-6495193

CHO7				
Kildare				
Jigginstown, Naas, County Kildare	Designated Liaison Person	Anelle Marynowski	Kildare	085 254 1141
	Deputy	Emer Haastrup		087 0569319
Tallaght				
Dublin South West Services, Tallaght, Dublin 24.	Designated Liaison Person	Geraldine Farren	Kilnamanagh/ Ballyboden	085 8768554
	Deputy	Anelle Marynowski	Kildare	085 254 1141
CHO8				
Meath - Navan				
Mullaghboy Industrial Estate, Navan, County Meath.	Designated Liaison Person	Anelle Marynowski	Navan	085 254 1141
	Deputy	Tracy White		087 2955745
Meath - Dunshaughlin				
Aerbridge House, Dunshaughlin Business Park, Dunshaughlin.	Designated Liaison Person	Orla Clancy	Navan	087 9423528
	Deputy	Tracy White		087 2955745
Meath - Kells				
Climber Hall, Kells, County Meath.	Designated Liaison Person	Anelle Marynowski	Navan	085 254 1141
	Deputy	Tracy White		087 2955745