



Child Safeguarding Statement

ADAPT Kerry CLG

t/a Kerry Women's Refuge & Support Services

Reviewed: March 2018

Section 1: Introduction & Scope of Statement

ADAPT Kerry CLG t/a Kerry Women's Refuge and Support Services work with women who experience domestic abuse by delivering a range of supports, information and advocacy services as well as emergency Refuge accommodation. We also engage in indirect work with children while they are residence in Refuge with their mother. Children frequently outnumber women in our Refuge service, often in a ratio as high as 2:1.

Statutory, voluntary and community organisations described as a Relevant Service under the Children First (2015) are required to put a Safeguarding Statement in place to protect the children they are in contact with from harm. As a Domestic Violence Refuge, we have prepared this Safeguarding Statement in recognition of our responsibility to the young persons who are in contact with the service.

Section 2: Commitment to Safeguard Children from Harm

Our service believes that the welfare of the children is of paramount importance and we are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.

Our service is committed to safeguarding the children who use our service and to provide a safe environment from harm.

We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, to be listened to, and to be heard.

Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: national Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017*, the *Tusla Children First – Child Safeguarding Guide, 2017*, and the *Children First Act, 2015*. Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our Child Safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.

We will review our Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures every two years, or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

The Designated Liaison Persons for Child Protection in our service is as follows

Designated Liaison Person			Emma O Mahony	Team Leader
Deputy Person	Designated	Liaison	Claire O' Driscoll	Outreach Support Worker
Deputy Person	Designated	Liaison	AnnaMarie Foley	General Manager

Section 3: Risk Assessment

As part of our obligations under the Children's First Act, 2015 a risk assessment was carried out in February 2018, to consider the potential for harm to come to children while using our service. This Risk Assessment will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis, or sooner if necessary. The following are risks identified at that time:

Physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse perpetrated by another service user/visitor

Currently there are a number of policies, procedures and practices in place which have been developed to manage the contact of a young person with another service user. These include our Admissions, Complaints and Child Protection Policy

Physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse perpetrated by a staff member/student/volunteer

Currently there are a number of policies, procedures and practices in place which have been developed to manage the level of risk to young people. These include a robust recruitment policy and process that includes Garda vetting, reference checks, induction as well as ongoing support and supervision.

Failure to recognise & Report suspected cases of abuse

Currently there are a number of policies, procedures and practices in place to manage the risk to children; these include a clear and transparent Child Protection Policy, the appointment of child protection officers in the Staff team and on going relevant training.

Failure to safeguard children's right to privacy and confidentiality

Currently there are a number of policies and practices in place to manage the data protection of each individual service user which is in line with current Data Protection legislation.

Internet Safety & Social Media

Currently there are a number of relevant policies in relation to safeguarding children from the harmful exposure to unsuitable Internet content; these include Internet usage policy, social media policies and the Child Protection Policy document.

Section 4: Child Safeguarding Policies & Procedures

The Board of Management recognises that Child Protection and Welfare considerations permeate all aspects of the supports offered by the service and are reflected in all the Refuge's policies, procedures, practices and activities. Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the *Children First Act, 2015*, *The Children First: National Guidance* 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 for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers / students / volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers / students / 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 in the service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing and training of a relevant person
- Procedure for the appointment and training of a Designated Liaison Person / Deputy Designated Liaison Person
- Admissions Policy for service users
- Complaints Policy, in line with best Practice
- Relevant Codes of Behaviour for working with young people
- Policy on the use of Mobile phones/ digital media
- Relevant Health & Safety policies

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Section 5: Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. The implementation of this Statement is dependant on the co-operation of all staff / volunteers / students and service users. It is the responsibility of the General Manager of the service to ensure that the policy is effectively communicated to all interested parties and to keep all parties up to date with the relevant information. ADAPT is committed to promoting Child Protection practices in the workplace and commits to make this policy accessible to those who come in contact with the service.

Signed: _____

Deirdre Murphy, Chairperson
ADAPT Kerry CLG
Killeen Road,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry

Relevant Person

For any queries in relation to the Child Safeguarding Statement should be directed to the Relevant Person:

Emma O Mahony, on 066 712 9100;

C/o ADAPT Kerry, Killeen Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Email: teamleader@kerryrefuge.com

Relevant Person under the Children First Act, 2015.