



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Kildare County Council

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. **Name of service being provided:** Local Authority
2. **Nature of service:** Kildare County Council provides an extensive range of infrastructure and social services to the people of County Kildare. These services include, but are not limited to, the maintenance and improvement of public roads, Environmental Services, Fire Services, Library Services and a range of community services.
3. **Principles to safeguard children from harm:** This Safeguarding Statement sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure as far as practicable that a child while availing of our services is safe from harm. The Council is committed to ensuring that children are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council. This includes ensuring appropriate policies and procedures are in place, and any concerns which come to the Local Authority are reported and recorded appropriately. The Council will ensure that employees, volunteers, parents/guardians and users of local authority services are aware of this Safe Guarding Statement and the Council's Child Protection policies.

4. **Risk assessment:** Kildare County Council has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage Risk Identified
1 Risk of not being fully compliant with Children First legislation, policy, procedure and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Children First Implementation Plan - Appoint Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLPs - Development of a Child Safeguarding Statement
2 Risk to children in receipt of our service from a member of staff or volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council's selection and recruitment policy is in line with the LGMA guidance and with the National Vetting Bureau guidance - Implementing a Code of Behaviour to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children and vulnerable adults - Develop procedures to deal with an allegation of abuse made against an employee / volunteer
3 Risk of harm or concern not being recognised and reported by a member of staff or volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide training to relevant staff - Roll out Awareness programme to all staff

5. **Procedures:** Kildare County Council's 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*.

The following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- Kildare County Council's Policy and Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children
- Kildare County Council's procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct, against members of staff / volunteers, of a child availing of our service


6. **Reporting a Concern:** If you have any concerns about a child's welfare you should report it to Tusla. A report can be made in person, by telephone or in writing.

In the event of an emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger you should contact An Garda Síochána.

The Council has appointed **Sonya Kavanagh**, Director of Services, as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in accordance with the Children First Act 2015. Ms. Kavanagh can be contacted at 045-980670 or by email skavana@kildarecoco.ie

7. **Implementation:** Implementation is an ongoing process. Kildare County Council 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. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as is practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Peter Carey, Chief Executive

Date: 15th of June 2021

For queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Statement please contact the DLP Sonya Kavanagh at 045-980670 or by email skavana@kildarecoco.ie