Child Safeguarding Statement

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, Dublin City Council has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.
The Council is responsible for providing a range of services to residents and visitors to Dublin including, fire and emergency, housing and community, roads and transportation, urban planning and development, culture and environment and enterprise services.
The City Council recognises that child protection and welfare considerations must be reflected in all of its policies, procedures, practices and activities.
The City Council will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child safeguarding in its policies, procedures, practices and activities:

- **It will recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.**
- **It will comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act, 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.**
- **It will co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child safeguarding issues.**
- **It will adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children.**
- **It will fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child safeguarding matters.**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, 'Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)' and Tusla's 'Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice'. It also takes account of the outcomes of risk assessments of the potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. The following procedures* support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- **Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and 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 management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service.**
- **Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.**
- **Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.**
- **Procedure for appointing a relevant person.**

*All procedures listed are available upon request.

Under the Children First Act 2015, Dublin City Council is required to carry out an assessment of risk of any potential for harm from abuse to a child while availing of our services. A list of the areas of risk identified and the procedures for managing these risks are listed below.

Risk from staff or volunteer

- Robust recruitment procedures.
- Appropriate Garda Vetting procedures.
- Appointment of designated Child Protection Liaison Officers.
- Code of Behaviour for staff to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children.
- Implementation of Child Protection Policy in line with Children First requirements.
- Relevant Child Protection training for staff.
- Procedures to deal with an allegation of abuse made against an employee or volunteer.

Risk from other service user

- Adequate staff to child ratios.
- Appropriate supervision of children/young people by staff.
- Appropriate use of CCTV.
- Security staff in relevant services.
- Code of conduct for service users on display in relevant services.
- Parents/guardians advised re requirement to supervise children appropriately in publicly accessed buildings and services.

Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act 2015 and National Guidance

- Implementation of Child Protection Policy and Procedures in compliance with Children First Act.
- Appropriate recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers.
- Appropriate vetting procedures (in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012 – 2016) for all relevant employees and volunteers.
- Appropriate training of staff.
- Appointment and training of DLPs and deputy DLPs.
- Mandated persons within the organisation identified and a list of mandated persons held by Safeguarding Officer.
- Completion of Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement.

Risk of harm/concern not being recognised by staff/volunteer

- Relevant Child Protection and awareness training to all staff.
- Clear reporting procedures in place.
- Details of DLP circulated to all staff and contact details available on the intranet.
- Implementation of Child Protection Policy compliant with Children First requirements.

Risk of harm caused to young person/child due to them accessing inappropriate online content or inappropriate/abusive communications via social media

- IT policy and Code of Behaviour for staff.
- Firewall and content filter in spaces where children can access the internet and social media on Dublin City Council devices.

Risk from external contractors/facilitators

- External Contractors/Facilitators to advise Dublin City Council that they have a Child Protection Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement in place or agree to adhere to Dublin City Council's Policy and Procedures.
- External facilitators who have direct contact with children are appropriately Garda Vetted.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement has been reviewed in May 2024 and will be reviewed again in May 2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Richard Shakespeare
Chief Executive Officer

For queries, please contact Mary Quinn at (01) 222 6173, Relevant Person under the Children First Act.

Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanaí

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

I gcomhréir le ceanglais an Achta um Thús Áite do Leanaí, 2015 agus le ceanglais Thús Áite do Leanaí: Treoir Náisiúnta maidir le Cosaint agus Leas Leanaí 2017, rinne Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath comhaontú ar an Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanaí a leagtar amach sa cháipéis seo. Tá an Chomhairle freagrach as réimse seirbhísí a sholáthar do chónaitheoirí agus cuairteoirí chuig Baile Átha Cliath, agus seirbhísí dóiteáin agus éigeandála, tithíochta agus pobail, bóithre agus iompair, pleanála uirbí agus seirbhísí forbartha, cultúir, chomh maith le seirbhísí comhshaoil agus fiontraíochta ina measc.
Aithníonn an Chomhairle Chathrach gur gá breithnithe ar chosaint agus leas leanaí a léiriú i ngach aon cheann dá beartais, dá nósanna imeachta, dá cleachtais agus dá gníomhaíochtaí. Cloífidh an Chomhairle Chathrach leis na prionsabail seo a leanas dea-chleachtais nuair a bhíonn leanaí á gcosaint ina beartais, nósanna imeachta, cleachtais agus gníomhaíochtaí:

- **Déanfaidh an Chomhairle aitheantas a tabhairt dó go mbaineann ríthábhacht le cosaint agus leas leanaí, beag beann ar na ceisteanna eile atá le bheith curtha san áireamh chomh maith.**
- **Déanfaidh an Chomhairle a hoibleagáidí reachtúla faoin Acht um Thús Áite do Leanaí, 2015 agus reachtaíocht ábhartha eile a bhaineann le cosaint agus leas leanaí a chomhlíonadh**
- **Déanfaidh an Chomhairle comhoibriú leis na húdaráis reachtúla ábhartha maidir le saincheisteanna um chosaint leanaí.**
- **Glacfaidh an Chomhairle le cleachtais shábháilte chun an fhéidearthacht a íoslaghdú go ndéanfar díobháil do leanaí.**
- **Déanfaidh an Chomhairle meas iomlán a léiriú ar cheanglais rúndachta nuair a dhéileáiltear le ceisteanna um chosaint leanaí.**

Forbraíodh ár Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanaí ar aon dul leis na ceanglais faoin Acht um Thús Áite do Leanaí, 2015, 'Tús Áite do Leanaí: Treoir Náisiúnta maidir le Cosaint agus Leas Leanaí (2017)' agus faoi 'Cosaint Leanaí: Treoir maidir le Beartas, Nós imeachta agus Cleachtas' arna ullmhú ag Tusla. Tá na torthaí a bhíonn ar mheasúnuithe riosca ar aon díobháil a d'fhéadfaí a dhéanamh do leanbh fad a bhíonn ár seirbhísí curtha ar fáil dóibh curtha san áireamh ann freisin. Tacaíonn na nósanna imeachta* seo a leanas lenár gcuspóir chun leanaí a chosaint fad a gcuirtear ár seirbhísí ar fáil dóibh:

- **An nós imeachta chun oibrithe agus oibrithe deonacha a earcú agus a roghnú chun oibriú le leanaí.**
- **An nós imeachta chun oiliúint agus faisnéis ar chosaint leanaí a sholáthar agus a dhéanamh inrochtana, a shainaithint nuair a dhéantar díobháil do leanaí san áireamh.**
- **An nós imeachta chun bainistíocht a dhéanamh ar líomhaintí mí-úsáide nó mí-iompair in aghaidh oibrithe/oibrithe deonacha linbh a gcuirtear ár seirbhís ar fáil dóibh.**
- **An nós imeachta chun buarthaí faoi chosaint nó leas leanaí a thabhairt le fios do Tusla.**
- **An nós imeachta chun liosta a choimeád de na daoine (más ann dóibh) sa tseirbhís ábhartha ar daoine faoi shainordú iad.**
- **An nós imeachta chun duine ábhartha a cheapadh.**

* Tá gach nós imeachta atá liostaithe ar fáil ach iarratas a dhéanamh.

Faoin Acht um Thús Áite do Leanaí, 2015, ceanglaítear ar Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath chun tabhairt faoi mheasúnú ar aon bhaol féideartha a d'fhéadfaí a dhéanamh do leanbh mar gheall ar mhí-úsáid fad a chuirtear ár seirbhísí ar fáil dó/di. Tá liosta thíos de na limistéir riosca a sainaithníodh chomh maith le liosta de na nósanna imeachta chun na rioscaí seo a bhainistiú.

Riosca a chruthaíonn an fhoireann nó oibrí deonach

- Nósanna Imeachta Daingne Earcaíochta.
- Nósanna Imeachta cuí Ghrinnfhiosrúchán an Gharda Síochána.
- Oifigigh Shainithe Idirchaidrimh um Chosaint Leanaí a cheapadh.
- Cód iompair don fhoireann chun treoir shoiléir a sholáthar d'fhostaithe agus oibrithe deonacha maidir conas caitheamh le leanaí.
- Beartas um Chosaint Leanaí a chur i bhfeidhm ar aon dul le riachtanais Thús Áite do Leanaí.
- An oiliúint ábhartha ar Chosaint Leanaí a chur ar an bhfoireann.
- Nósanna imeachta chun déileáil le líomhain a rinneadh maidir le mí-úsáid in aghaidh fostaí / oibrí deonach.

Riosca a chruthaíonn úsáideoir seirbhíse eile

- Cóimheasa leordhóthanacha idir an fhoireann agus leanaí.
- Maoirseacht chuí á déanamh ag an bhfoireann ar leanaí/dhaoine óga.
- Úsáid chuí a bhaint as CTI [CCTV sa Bhéarla].
- Foireann slándála sna Seirbhísí ábhartha.
- Cód iompair d'úsáideoirí seirbhíse ar taispeáint sna seirbhísí ábhartha.
- Tuismitheoirí/caomhnóirí curtha ar an eolas ar an ngá atá le maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar leanaí go cuí i bhfoirgnimh agus seirbhísí a bhfuil rochtain ag an bpobal orthu.

Riosca nach ndéanfar an tAcht um Thús Áite do Leanaí, 2015 agus Treoir Náisiúnta a chomhlíonadh

- Beartas agus Nósanna Imeachta um Chosaint Leanaí a chur i bhfeidhm - an tAcht um Thús Áite do Leanaí a chomhlíonadh.
- Earcaíocht agus roghnú cuí fostaithe agus oibrithe deonacha.
- Nósanna imeachta cuí grinnfhiosrúcháin (i gcomhréir leis an Acht um an mBiúró Náisiúnta Grinnfhiosrúcháin, 2012-2016) a bheith i bhfeidhm do na fostaithe agus oibrithe deonacha ábhartha go léir.
- Oiliúint chuí a chur ar an bhfoireann.
- DAIanna agus Leas-DAIanna a cheapadh agus an oiliúint a chur orthu.
- Na daoine faoi shainordú laistigh den eagraíocht a shainaithint agus liosta de dhaoine faoi shainordú a choimeád ag Oifigeach Cosanta.
- Measúnú Riosca agus Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanaí a chomhlánú.

Níl an riosca/an bhuairt go ndéanfar díobháil á (h)aithint ag an bhfoireann/an t-oibrí deonach

- Oiliúint ábhartha ar Chosaint Leanaí agus feasacht ar Chosaint Leanaí á cur ar an bhfoireann go léir.
- Nósanna imeachta soiléire maidir le tuairisciú i bhfeidhm.
- Sonraí faoin DAI scaipthe ar an bhfoireann go léir agus sonraí teagmhála ar fáil ar an inlíon.
- Beartas um Chosaint Leanaí curtha i bhfeidhm atá comhlíonach le riachtanais Thús Áite do Leanaí.

An riosca go ndearnadh Díobháil do dhuine óg/leanbh mar gheall gur tháinig siad ar ábhar míchuí ar líne nó ar chumarsáid mhíchuí/dhrochídeach trí na meáin shóisialta

- Beartas agus Cód Iompair teicneolaíochta faisnéise a bheith i bhfeidhm don fhoireann.
- Balla dóiteáin agus Scagaire Ábhair ann i spásanna inar féidir le leanaí teacht ar an idirlíon agus na meáin shóisialta ar ghléasanna de chuid Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Riosca a chruthaíonn conraitheoirí/éascaitheoirí seachtracha

- Tá ar Chonraitheoirí/Éascaitheoirí seachtracha le Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath a chur ar an eolas go bhfuil Beartas um Chosaint Leanaí agus Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanaí i bhfeidhm acu nó tá orthu a chomhaontú chun cloí le Beartas agus Nósanna Imeachta Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath.
- Déantar Grinnfhiosrúchán cuí an Gharda Síochána ar éascaitheoirí seachtracha a dhéanann teagmháil dhíreach le leanaí.

Aithnímid gur próiseas leanúnach é cur i bhfeidhm. Tá ár seirbhísí tiomanta don Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanaí seo agus na nósanna imeachta a thacaíonn lenár gcuspóir a chur i bhfeidhm chun leanaí a choimeád sábháilte ó dhíobháil fad a gcuirtear ár seirbhís ar fáil dóibh. Tá athbhreithniú déanta ar an Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanaí seo i mí na Bealtaine 2024, agus táthar chun é a athbhreithniú arís i mí na Bealtaine, 2026, nó a luaithe is indéanta i ndiaidh go dtagann athrú ábhartha ar aon cheist dá dtagraíonn an ráiteas.

Má bhíonn ceisteanna agat, déan teagmháil, le do thoil, le Mary Quinn trí ghlao ar (01) 222 6173, an Duine Ábhartha faoin Acht um Thús Áite do Leanaí.

Richard Shakespeare
Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin