



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County Council's

Child Safeguarding Statement

February 2022

1. **Name of service being provided:** Local Authority service for South Dublin County which covers an area of 222.7 sq km and is home to 278,767 people living in 97,228 homes and approximately 6,500 businesses at the last Census, 2016.
2. **Nature of service:** The Council provides and funds a broad range of services including housing, roads, walking and cycling routes, parks and playgrounds, libraries, sports facilities, litter control, arts centres, enterprise units, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports.
3. **Principles to safeguard children from harm:** South Dublin County Council is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children in the delivery of all our services and activities. The Council has an overall corporate duty and responsibility to safeguard the children accessing the Council's services and activities.

South Dublin County Council is committed to;

- Promoting general welfare, health development and safety of children;
- Ensuring safe management procedures are in place for all staff and volunteers including: robust recruitment, selection, supervision and support procedures;
- Developing guidance and procedures for staff and volunteers who may have reasonable grounds for concern about the possible abuse or neglect of a child involved in the services or activities of the Council;
- Ensuring Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers are appointed and accessible;

- Ensuring that the Council has procedures in place to deal with an allegation of abuse made against an employee / volunteer;
- Raising awareness in the organisation about potential risks to children's safety / welfare;
- Developing procedures for responding to accidents and complaints;
- Developing and maintaining clear record keeping procedures;
- Ensuring a Code of Behaviour is in place to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children and young people in the organisation;
- Developing a policy of interagency cooperation with Tusla and other agencies involved in the protection of a child.

South Dublin County Council's child-centred approach

South Dublin County Council's child-centred approach means we will:

- Treat all children equally
- Listen to and respect children
- Involve children as appropriate
- Provide encouragement, support and praise (regardless of ability)
- Use appropriate language (verbal and physical)
- Have fun and encourage a positive atmosphere
- Offer constructive criticism when needed
- Treat all children as individuals
- Respect a child's personal space
- Use age-appropriate teaching aids
- Lead by example

- Be aware of child time limitations for example school / exams when scheduling activities
- Create an atmosphere of trust
- Be aware of the **Equal Status Acts 2000-2015** which relate to discrimination based on ten grounds:
 - Gender
 - Civil Status
 - Family Status
 - Age
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Disability
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Membership of the Traveller community
 - “housing assistance” ground (only in the provision of accommodation)
- Use all information in respect of children only for the purpose for which it is given, subject to child protection concern / concerns.

4. Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are carried out to consider the potential for harm to come to a child while availing of our services.

5. Procedures

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**.

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

- South Dublin County Council's Policy and Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children;
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers / volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- 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 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.

6. Reporting a Concern

Please contact the following if you have a concern or if you require any further information on the Council's Policies and Procedures.

Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer

Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management – Lorna Maxwell

imaxwell@sdublincoco.ie

Child Protection Deputy Liaison Officers

Senior Social Worker, Housing, Social and Community Development –

Niamh Milliken nmiliken@sdblincoco.ie

Administrative Officer, Human Resources – Caroline O Reilly

coreilly@sdblincoco.ie

Support Contact Person in HR

A/ Senior Executive Officer , Human Resources – Deirdre Wall

dwall@sdblincoco.ie

Housing Welfare Duty Social Work

dutysocialworker@sdblincoco.ie

Anyone can report a concern about a child. If you have any concerns about a child, you should report it to Tusla. A report can be made in person, by telephone or in writing. Any member of the public who has a concern about a child can contact the Tusla local social work duty service in the area where the child lives for advice about reporting your concerns.

In the event of any emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger and you cannot get in contact with Tusla, you should contact [An Garda Síochána](#).

If a child is in danger outside office hours you can contact the Gardaí.

Further information on Child Protection – www.tusla.ie

7. Implementation

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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within 24 months or as soon as practicable, after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Daniel McLoughlin | Chief Executive,
South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Phone: 01 414 9035

Email: chiefexecutive@sdublincoco.ie

**South Dublin County Council Corporate
Date 21/02/2022
CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT RISK ASSESSMENT**

Identified Risk	Risk Level	Risk Owner Persons Responsible	Measure	Further Action
Non compliance with legislation, policy and procedure by employees & volunteers	med	Designated Officer Deputy Designated Officers Support Contact in HR Senior Executive Officer, HR Line-managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children Policy and Procedure for the Management of Vetting Disclosures Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement Service Specific Child Safeguarding Statements Information and Awareness Raising Sessions on Children First/Child Protection for all staff TUSLA eLearning training programme for relevant staff 	Agenda item for quarterly designated officers meeting
Weaknesses in systems and structures for the selection and appointment of employees	low	Recruitment Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and Selection Procedure Policy and Procedure for the Management of Vetting Disclosures 	Monitor recruitment processes

Appointment of employees and volunteers without completing Garda Vetting procedures					on quarterly basis
System failure/s for the safeguarding of children for example, failure to report internally or externally a child protection concern	med	Designated Officer Deputy Designated Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children • Information and Awareness Raising Sessions on Children First/Child Protection for all staff • TUSLA eLearning training programme for relevant staff • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create culture of child safeguarding awareness. 	
Harm to children and vulnerable persons as a result of failure to act on reports of incidents and concerns	low	Designated Officer Deputy Designated Officers Support Contact in HR Senior Executive Officer, HR Line-managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and Awareness Raising Sessions on Children First/Child Protection for all staff • TUSLA eLearning training programme for relevant staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create culture of child safeguarding awareness 	
Learning from investigations and reports is not implemented	low	Designated Officer Deputy Designated Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly meetings held by the Designated Officer to review reports of incidents and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of policies / procedures and training for staff 	

Breakdown in communication systems with statutory agencies	med	Designated Officer Deputy Designated Officers	Meetings held with relevant agencies to promote good communication processes	Direct contact where required
Training for employees & volunteers on responsibilities for safeguarding of children not provided	low	Designated Officer Deputy Designated Officers AO - Training	Training is listed for in the annual Training and Development Plan	Monitor non attendance

Breach of confidentiality and data protection of reported or suspected safeguarding of children concerns

low

Designated Officer

- Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children (section one paragraph 12)

Deputy
Designated
Officers
Support Contact
in HR

Key stakeholders are not aware of
requirements for safeguarding of children

med

Line-managers

- Policy and Procedures for the Protection Monitor and Safeguarding of Children Section
- Templates for procurement include a section on Safeguarding of Children

