



The Centre
for Effective
Services

www.effectiveservices.org

Ireland
27 Fitzwilliam Street Upper,
Dublin 2, D02 TP23,

office@effectiveservices.org
+353(0)1 416 0500

Northern Ireland
Glandore,
Arthur House,
41 Arthur Street,
Belfast, BT1 4GB

nioffice@effectiveservices.org
+44(0)2890 648 362

CES Child Safeguarding Statement

About

CES is an independent, non-profit, all-island intermediary organisation founded in 2008. CES offices are located at:

27 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, D02 TP23
Arthur House, 41 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GB

Services

CES supports a range of agencies, government departments and service providers throughout the island of Ireland to design, implement and evaluate new and innovative approaches to complex social problems. CES puts evidence and implementation at the heart of what we do.

Although CES itself does not provide direct services to children, CES staff 1 undertake work with 'relevant services' 2 and occasionally in that work may have indirect and supervised contact with children. The level of contact between CES staff and children and young people is relatively small, however their safety, welfare, and well-being is of paramount importance. We therefore intend to implement policies, procedures and actions necessary to ensure their protection, whatever and wherever the contact.

CES works in partnership with other organisations as set out in its Corporate Strategy, vision and purpose statements. If during the course of our work with partner organisations CES identifies child safeguarding concerns or issue, these will be communicated and escalated through formal mechanisms at the earliest opportunity.

Children and young people who visit CES offices do not have access to the internet, nor do they have the use of CES smart phones, so no risk is posed in this regard.

Guiding principles

The following principles underpin CES's approach to child safeguarding and apply to all CES staff

1. Our priority is to ensure that the welfare and safety of every child who comes into contact with our organisation is paramount
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children reflect national policy and legislation and we will review these principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years
3. All children have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child⁵ who comes into contact with our organisation, including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation whether they are undertaking work in CES offices or undertaking work in other locations on behalf of CES
6. All staff must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.



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Risk Assessment

CES has carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to a child or children while in contact with our organisation, including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risks identified and the list of procedures for managing these

Risk Identified	Controls / Procedures in Place to Mitigate Risk
1. Risk of harm to a child by a member of staff	• Robust pre-employment screening and recruitment checks. • Staff Code of Behaviour in place and communicated to all employees. • CES Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures implemented and regularly reviewed. • Consent guidelines for children participating in research activities. • Mandatory safeguarding training for all staff, including Children First (ROI) and CiNI Child Protection Level 2 (NI).
2. Risk of harm or safeguarding concerns not being recognised or reported by CES staff	• Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures provided to all staff during induction. • Clear reporting procedures in place, with staff aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. • Mandatory refresher training every three years, including Children First e-learning (ROI) and CiNI Child Protection Level 2 (NI).
3. Difficulty securing Garda/Police clearance for staff engaged in work involving direct contact with children	• Commissioners of CES services are responsible for obtaining Garda Vetting or equivalent clearance where projects require direct contact with children. • Access to vetting arrangements for Northern Ireland-based staff through a partner organisation where required.
4. Risk associated with children's access to the internet via CES devices	• Children are not permitted access to the internet using CES-owned devices.

Procedures

CES's 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. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment. The following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people who may be in contact with the organisation during our work

- Procedure to manage any risk identified (see above)
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against CES staff made by a child in contact with our service or visiting our offices
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers to work with children
- Procedure for the 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 the civil authorities (Tusla: Child and Family Agency in the Republic of Ireland, and the relevant Gateway Service team in Northern Ireland)



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Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. CES is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while in contact with our organisation.

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

Signed:

Michelle Hannon

Date: 28th September 2026

For queries, please contact Michelle Hannon (mhannon@effectiveservices.org), Designated Liaison Person (DLP).