

Assessment Framework for Providers

Children Residential Centres

Theme 1: Child Centred Services

Services for children are centred on the individual child and his/her care and support needs. Child-centred services provide the right support at the right time to enable children to lead their lives in as fulfilling a way as possible. A child-centred approach to service provision is one where services are planned and delivered with the active involvement and participation of the children who use services.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**National Standards for Children's residential centre****Standard 4**
Children's Rights**Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations, 1995***Part II Article 4 Care practices and operational policies***Lines of Enquiry****1.1** Are the rights of children respected and promoted?**1.2** Are children consulted and encouraged to participate in decision making about their lives?**1.3** Are complaints and concerns effectively managed?

Theme 2: Safe and Effective Services

Services promote the safety of children by protecting them from abuse and neglect and following policy and procedure in reporting any concerns of abuse and/or neglect to the relevant authorities. Effective services ensure that the systems are in place to promote children's welfare. Assessment and planning is central to the identification of children's care needs.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

National Standards for Children's residential centre

Standard 5

Planning for Children and Young People

Standard 6

Care of Young People

Standard 7

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Standard 10

Premises and Safety

Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations, 1995

Part III, Article 7 Accommodation
Part III, Article 8 Access arrangements
Part III, Article 9 Health care
Part III, Article 10 Religion
Part III, Article 11 Provision of food and cooking facilities
Part III, Article 12 Fire Precautions
Part III, Article 13 Safety Precautions
Part III, Article 15 Notification of Significant events
Part IV, Article 22 Case records
Part IV, Article 23 Care Plan
Part IV, Article 24 Supervision and visiting of children
Part V, Articles 25 & 26 Review of cases

Lines of Enquiry

- 2.1** Are admissions and discharges of children managed effectively?
- 2.2** Does the service fulfil all of its statutory requirements in relation to children in residential care?
- 2.3** Are children able to maintain positive relationships with their parents, siblings and significant others?
- 2.4** Do children receive the emotional and physical care they require?

Lines of Enquiry	2.5 Are children prepared and supported for leaving care and adult life?
	2.6 Are children's records of good quality and managed in accordance with legislation?
	2.7 Are children provided with a nutritious and varied diet?
	2.8 Does the service meet children's needs in relation to diversity, disability, communication and literacy?
	2.9 Are the necessary supports provided to children with complex needs?
	2.10 Are there measures in place to safeguard and protect children from abuse?
	2.11 Is there evidence that all child protection or welfare concerns are appropriately investigated and managed in line with national guidance and legislation?
	2.12 Is the health and safety of children, staff and visitors promoted and protected in suitable accommodation?
	2.13 Are there fire safety arrangements in place?

Theme 3: Health and Development

The health and development needs of children are assessed and arrangements are in place to meet the assessed needs. Children's educational needs are given high priority to support them to achieve at school and access education or training in adult life.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

National Standards for Children's residential centre

Standard 8

Education

Standard 9

Health

Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations, 1995

Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations, 1995

Part III, Article 9 Health care

Part IV, Article 20 Medical examinations

Lines of Enquiry

3.1 Do children receive appropriate education and support in order to maximise their potential?

3.2 Are children's health care needs assessed and met?

Theme 4: Leadership, Governance & Management

Effective governance is achieved by planning and directing activities, using good business practices, accountability and integrity. In an effective governance structure, there are clear lines of accountability at individual, team and service levels and all staff working in the service are aware of their responsibilities. Risks to the service as well as to individuals are well managed. The system is subject to a rigorous quality assurance system and is well monitored.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

National Standards for Children's residential centre

Standard 1

Purpose and Function

Standard 2

Management and Staffing

Standard 3

Monitoring

Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations, 1995

Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations, 1995

Part III, Article 5 Care practices and operational policies

Part III, Article 6 Staffing

Part III, Article 15 Notification of Significant events

Part III, Article 16 Records

Part III, Article 17 Monitoring of Standards

Part IV, Article 21 Maintenance of Register

Lines of Enquiry

4.1 Does the service perform its function in accordance with its statement of purpose and function?

4.2 Are there effective management and governance structures and systems in place which identify clear lines of authority and accountability?

4.3 Is there a monitoring process in place to ensure compliance with the regulations, standards and best practice?

4.4 Are staff members recruited in accordance with legislation, standards and policies?

4.5 Are there sufficient experienced and qualified staff in place to deliver the service?

4.6 Are staff supported and supervised appropriately?

4.7 Do staff receive adequate training?