

Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Child Safeguarding Statement

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act (2015), the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Our services

HIQA provides a range of products and services to the health and social care sector in Ireland. It regulates residential services for older people, children and adults with disabilities and children detained in special care units. It monitors children's residential services, foster care services, child protection and welfare services and Oberstown Detention Campus. It also monitors health services in Ireland's public hospitals and in the community. It develops standards, carries out projects and provides guidance and information for the health and social care sector and may meet with children in focus groups. It carries out health technology assessments and makes recommendations to policy-makers.

This means that HIQA staff come into contact with children in a range of health and social care settings. HIQA has support services which ensure that the organisation can carry out its work in a legal, effective and efficient way.

Our safeguarding principles

HIQA is committed to safeguarding children in all areas of its work. It takes every reasonable action to promote children's safety in its staff recruitment, policies and procedures and in the information, training and ongoing supervision it provides to staff. All staff members are bound by HIQA's procedures and must report any child protection or welfare concerns of which they become aware in the course of their work in compliance with those procedures, up to and including the reporting of concerns to Tusla (the Child and Family Agency) and An Garda Síochána.

Risk assessment

HIQA has carried out a risk assessment and have put in place measures to ensure that our services and products are as safe as is possible.

HIQA undertakes reviews of the risk and control measures once every two years or when an un-assessed risk arises.

Procedures

HIQA has put in place a number of procedures to control child safeguarding risks and they are available on request. They are:

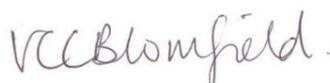
- Child protection and welfare policy
- Managing child safeguarding risks – Standard Operating Procedure
- Reporting child protection concerns to Tusla – Standard Operating Procedure
- Recruitment and selection policy
- Managing allegations made against staff members – Standard Operating Procedure
- Provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information – Standard Operating Procedure
- Risk assessment for Child Safeguarding Statement
- Appointing a relevant person – Standard Operating Procedure
- Maintaining a list of mandated persons - Standard Operating Procedure
- Child protection and welfare guidance

HIQA is committed to the ongoing implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service or activities. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1 September 2019, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers. The current Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person is Vicky Blomfield from 10 March 2018. The alternate Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person is Susan Geary.

Signed: Phelim Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, Health Information and Quality Authority



Signed: Vicky Blomfield, Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person, Health Information and Quality Authority.



For queries, please contact Vicky Blomfield, Relevant Person under the Children First Act (2015) on tel 01 814 7400.