

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.

About HIQA

HIQA is an independent statutory authority which promotes safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services. It regulates residential services for older people, children and adults with disabilities, children in special care units and medical exposures to ionising radiation by both public and private providers. It also monitors health services in Ireland's acute, community and private hospitals, permanent international protection accommodation service centres and a range of children's services (child protection and welfare, foster care, statutory children's residential centres and Oberstown Children Detention Campus). It develops standards, carries out projects and provides guidance for the health and social care sector. It may also meet with adults in focus groups or during investigations. It carries out health technology assessments and makes recommendations to policy-makers. This means that HIQA staff come in to contact with children in a range of health and social care settings. Information of concern received by HIQA is reviewed by our information handling service.

In addition, 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 takes a structured approach to risk management, to ensure that all risks are managed with effective controls. HIQA's risk management framework incorporates the identification, assessment, mitigation, monitoring and governance of risk. HIQA reviews the risk and control measures that it has in place on a regular basis but at a minimum every two years or when an unassessed risk arises.

Procedures

HIQA has put in place a number of procedures to control child safeguarding risks which can be assessed in Precision for staff or on request for visitors. They include:

- Child protection and welfare policy
- Child protection and welfare guidance
- Child protection and welfare concerns - Standard Operating Procedure
- Managing child safeguarding risks – 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

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 31 December 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

The current Relevant Person is Ann Delany from 13 07 2021. The alternate Relevant Person is Susan Geary.



Signed: Angela Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer, Health Information and Quality Authority



Signed: Ann Delany, Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person, Health Information and Quality Authority.

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