



**Crois Dhearg** na hÉireann  
**Irish Red Cross**

# **CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

**Published by:**

**National Safeguarding Committee, Irish Red Cross.**

**March 2018**

## Checklist

| Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement   | Complete |
|---|----------|
| Carry out the Risk Assessment   |          |
| List details of the service provided and management structure   |          |
| List principles to protect children from harm   |          |
| Appoint a Relevant Person   |          |
| Draw up a list of Mandated Persons  |          |
| Check you have all the required policies and procedures   |          |
| Amend your child protection and welfare reporting procedures, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>information on Mandated Persons and how they report</i></li> <li>• <i>information from Children First, National Guidance, 2017</i></li> </ul> |          |
| Develop new procedures to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Appoint a relevant person</i></li> <li>• <i>Draw up list of Mandated Persons</i></li> </ul>  |          |
| Provide all staff/volunteers and board members with information about their responsibilities under the Children First Act, 2015   |          |
| Include details on review and implementation  |          |

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### 1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

The Irish Red Cross is a registered charity. The vision of the Irish Red Cross is to be a leading humanitarian organisation providing impartial services and support to vulnerable communities both at home and abroad.

Our mission is to identify and deliver humanitarian assistance, both at home and abroad, to those who are most in need. In achieving this we will be guided by the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

#### **The Governance structure is:**

General Assembly represents the National Society as a whole.

The Board of Directors is the body governing the Irish Red Cross between sessions of the General Assembly.

Further information available on the above structure is

<http://www.redcross.ie/aboutus/corporate-governance/>

### 2. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

- The Irish Red Cross is committed to safeguarding the children with whom we come in contact: both as members and recipients of our services. We believe their welfare is paramount.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and recognise that they have rights as individuals including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, heard and treated with dignity and respect.
- Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and vulnerable persons reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, DCYA, 2017, *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure*, Tusla, 2018, and the *Children First Act 2015*.
- Our policy declaration applies to all volunteers, paid staff, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee/board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide

by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.

- We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** for Child Protection

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>DLP/Mandated Person</b>         | <b>Deputy:</b>   |
| <i>Sandra Stanley 087 257 3333</i> | <i>Chair or designate of National Safeguarding Committee</i> |

### 3. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*, the National Safeguarding Committee has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to children as members or recipients of our service. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

| Risk Identified   | Policies and/or Procedures in place to manage Risk   |
|---|--|
| Non-compliance with IRC Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.                     | 1)Safeguarding Declaration signed by all volunteers/ Staff.<br>2)Timely and up to date training on Policy and Procedures for relevant persons.   |
| Delay in reporting and/or management of child protection concerns               | 1)Safeguarding Declaration signed by all volunteers/ Staff.<br>2)Timely and up to date training on Policy and Procedures for relevant persons.<br>3)Arrangements are in place for a deputy DLP<br>4)Management of allegations of abuse procedure in place  |
| Potential for a child who is a member or recipient of our service to be harmed. | 1)Garda Vetting procedures<br>2)Safeguarding Declaration signed by all volunteers/ Staff.<br>3)Timely and up to date training on Policy and Procedures for relevant persons.<br>4)Best Practice Guidelines and Safe Management of Activities.<br>5)General guidelines for members and Codes of Behaviour in place. |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Risk to children availing of work experience within the IRC may be harmed                               | 1) Garda Vetting procedures in place.<br>2)Safeguarding Declaration signed by all volunteers/ Staff.<br>3)Employee Handbook |
| Risk of the mismanagement of complaints where the DLP or a member of the NSC is the alleged perpetrator | 1) Safeguarding Policy and Procedure to be followed<br>2)TOR of the NSC<br>3)Employee Handbook                              |

#### **4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

As required by the *Children First Act 2015* and *Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017* the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place

- A Relevant Person has been appointed
- A Designated Liaison Person and Deputy have been appointed
- Safeguarding Policy Statement and Procedures.
- Procedure for Dealing with Allegations against a member/staff member
- Recruitment Procedure for members
- Garda Vetting Policy
- Code of Behaviour for members
- Induction Procedure
- Complaints Procedure in relation to child safety and protection
- Social Media Policy

#### **5. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

- We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Irish Red Cross is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children who are members or recipients of our services safe from harm.
- This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

- This statement has been published on the Irish Red Cross website and is displayed in all Irish Red Cross premises. It is available to all staff and volunteers, and is readily accessible on request.
- A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla on request.

Signed:  Date: 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018.  
Tom Horwell – Acting Chairman IRC.

**For further information on this Statement, contact Relevant Person: Sandra Stanley – National Safeguarding Officer, 087-2573333**

