



## CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT FOR CARLOW COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

### CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT (CSS)

**Organisation Name and Address:** Carlow County Childcare Committee CLG  
Enterprise House, O'Brien Rd, Carlow

**Address for activities that relate to the CSS:** Various locations around  
County Carlow such as Ballon Rest Centre, Big Blue Barn, Visual Carlow.

#### 1. Nature of organisation and principles to safeguard children from harm

Carlow County Childcare Committee aims to lead, facilitate and support the development of quality, accessible Early Learning & Care and School Age childcare services in County Carlow for the overall benefit of children and their parents by taking a child-centered and partnership approach.

- We provide 'Stay and Play' Sessions as part of the DCEDIY Ukrainian Response.
- We provide 'network events' for childminders and the children in their care at various locations around Co. Carlow.
- We have designated, secure indoor/outdoor areas where we provide learning activities for children and their parents/guardians/childminders.
- Parents/guardians/childminders are required to remain on site with the children in their care at all times

#### Guiding principles to safeguard children from harm:

We believe that:

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our sessions/network events, is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and Child Safeguarding Procedures every two years.
3. All children and young people attending Stay and Play sessions and network events will be respected as individuals and encouraged to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our Stay and Play sessions and network events, including the right to be kept safe and protected from harm, to be listened to and to be heard.
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.





6. CCCC Employees/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation. All employees/volunteers are guided by Carlow CCCs Code of Behaviour.

## 2. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm:

*“harm” means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise; (Children First Act 2015)*

to a child while attending our Stay and Play sessions and network events. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015)	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	<p>Risk of harm of abuse by staff/volunteers.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rough handling of children by staff in a way that causes harm to a child</li> <li>- Staff/volunteers shouting at or chastising children to the extent that it causes harm to a child</li> <li>- On-going provision of inadequate food and/or nutrition to the extent that it causes harm to a child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Complaints Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Staff Training Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Staff Induction Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Reporting Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Child Safeguarding Training Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Garda Vetting Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour for Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy</li> </ul>
2	<p>Risk of abuse by staff and volunteers not knowing correct procedures.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children placed at risk due to inadequate supervision e.g. a child going missing</li> <li>- Children being harmed as a result of staff not reporting appropriate concerns</li> <li>- Children being harmed by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff Training Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Staff Supervision Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Reporting Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Child Safeguarding Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Allegations of Abuse against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Complaints Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behavior for staff and volunteers Procedures/Policy</li> <li>- Stay &amp; Play Policy including risk management policy</li> <li>- Childminder Network Events Policy</li> </ul>





	<p>inappropriate actions or interactions by staff</p>	<p>including risk management policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Critical Incident Procedure/Policy</li> </ul>
3	<p>Risk of abuse by workers/volunteers/visitors when parents/guardians/childminders are not on site for Stay and Play sessions or Network events.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An incident of sexual abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer, for example, during nappy changing or intimate care routines</li> <li>- An incident of physical abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer when parent/guardian/childminder is not on site</li> <li>- Emotional abuse by a staff member/ student/volunteer taking place when parent/guardian/childminder is not on site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff Training Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Staff Supervision Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Recruitment Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Garda Vetting Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Child Safeguarding Policy/Procedure</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour for Staff/Students/ Volunteers Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Allegation of Abuse Against Staff/Students/Volunteers Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Stay &amp; Play Policy includes Personal and Intimate Care and Inclusion Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Childminder Network Events Policy includes Personal and Intimate Care and Inclusion Procedure/Policy</li> </ul>
4	<p>Risk of harm by use of unauthorised photography or from online abuse through social media or internet access.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor management of images or recordings of children, including those shared publicly or on social media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy/Procedure on the use of the Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices</li> <li>- Social Media Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Retention of Records Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Stay &amp; Play Policy</li> <li>- Childminder Network Events Policy</li> </ul>
5	<p>Risk of harm from other workers/volunteers or unannounced visitors to the venue where the Stay and Play session or network event is taking place (e.g., maintenance/ repairs/deliveries/other families/adults/children).</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk of children absconding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety Statement Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Stay &amp; Play Policy includes policy on Risk Management, Supervision of Children and Visitor Signing in Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Childminder Network Events Policy includes policy on Risk Management, Supervision of Children and Visitor Signing in Procedure/Policy</li> </ul>





	<p>from services due to procedures for entering and exiting buildings not being adhered to, such as doors being closed etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse to children from visitors</li> <li>- Children placed at risk of harm due to inadequate supervision</li> </ul>	
6	<p>Risk of harm from peer to peer abuse.</p> <p>Examples of risk include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repeated, extreme acts of bullying (i.e. verbal, psychological or physical aggression between children)</li> <li>- Children using social media platforms to post derogatory comments or pictures of other children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complaints Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Staff Training Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Stay &amp; Play Policy includes policy on anti bullying and Supervision of Children Procedure/Policy</li> <li>- Childminder Network Events Policy includes policy on anti bullying and Supervision of Children Procedure/Policy</li> </ul>

### 3. Procedures

Our 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.

The procedures listed in our Risk Assessment and the Specified Procedures below support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for 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 Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be displayed prominently.

All procedures will be made available to staff, parents, young people, members of the public and Tusla, if requested.





#### 4. Implementation and Review

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

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

*Geralyne Costello*

**Signed:**

(Provider of the Relevant Service)

For queries, please contact [Áine Gahan \(Manager\)](#) on 0863898589 or [aine@carlowccc.ie](mailto:aine@carlowccc.ie)  
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

