

C A R L O W
C O U N T Y C O U N C I L

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA



Carlow County Council

Child Safeguarding Statement

October 2019

1. Name of service being provided:

Carlow County Council provides a local authority service for the people of County Carlow which covers an Area of 897 square kilometres and has a population of 56,932.

2. Nature of service:

The Council provides and funds a broad range of services including housing, roads, walking and cycling routes, parks and playgrounds, libraries, sports facilities, Litter Control, arts centres, enterprise units, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports.

3. Principles to safeguard children from harm:

Carlow County Council is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children in the delivery of all our services and activities. The Council has an overall corporate duty and responsibility to safeguard the children accessing its Services and Activities.

Carlow County Council is committed to;

- Promoting general welfare, health development and safety of children;
- Ensuring safe management procedures are in place for all staff and volunteers including: robust recruitment, selection, supervision and support procedures;
- Developing guidance and procedures for staff and volunteers who may have reasonable grounds for concern about the possible abuse or neglect of a child involved in the services or activities of the Council.
- Ensuring Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers are appointed and accessible;
- Ensuring that the Council has procedures in place to deal with an allegation of abuse made against an employee/volunteer;
- Raising awareness in the organisation about potential risks to children's safety/welfare;
- Developing procedures for responding to accidents and complaints;
- Developing and maintaining clear record keeping procedures;
- Ensuring a Code of Behaviour is in place to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children and young people in the organisation;
- Developing a policy of interagency cooperation with Tusla and other agencies involved in the protection of a child.

Carlow County Council's Child-Centred Approach

Carlow County Council's child-centred approach means we will;

- Treat all children equally
- Listen to and respect children
- Involve children as appropriate
- Provide encouragement, support and praise (regardless of ability)
- Use appropriate language (verbal and physical)
- Have fun and encourage a positive atmosphere
- Offer constructive criticism when needed
- Treat all children as individuals
- Respect a child's personal space
- Use age-appropriate teaching aids
- Lead by example
- Be aware of child time limitations e.g. school/exams when scheduling activities
- Create an atmosphere of trust
- Be aware of the *Equal Status Act 2000-2010* which relates to discrimination based on nine grounds:
 - Gender
 - Civil Status
 - Family Status
 - Age
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Disability
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Membership of the Traveller community
- Use all information in respect of children only for the purpose for which it is given, subject to child protection concern(s).

4. Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are carried out to consider the potential for harm to come to a child while availing of our services.

5. Procedures

The Council's 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 following procedures support the Council's intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

Carlow County Council Policy and Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of the Council 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.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

6. Reporting a Concern

Please contact the following if you have a concern or if you require any further information on the Councils Policies and Procedures.

Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer

Senior Executive Officer – Eamonn Brophy

ebrophy@carlowcoco.ie or Telephone 059 - 9170345

Child Protection Deputy Liaison Officer

Administrative Officer – Avril Oakes aoakes@carlowcoco.ie or Telephone 059-9136236

Anyone can report a concern about a child. If you have any concerns about a child, you should report it to Tusla. A report can be made in person, by telephone or in writing. Any member of the public who has a concern about a child can contact the Tusla local social work duty service in the area where the child lives for advice about reporting your concerns.

In the event of any emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger and you cannot get in contact with Tusla, you should contact [An Garda Síochána](#).

Carlow Garda Station

Athy Road

Carlow

R93 W983

Tel +353 (059) 9136620

District HQ Tel +353 (059) 9136627

If a child is in danger outside office hours you can contact the Gardai.

Further information on Child Protection – www.tusla.ie

7. Implementation

Implementation is an on-going process. The Council's service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support the Council's intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of its service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within 24 months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Kathleen Holohan

Chief Executive

Carlow County Council, Athy Road

Carlow

Phone: 059 91 70388

Email: kholohan@carlowcoco.ie