

Protection and Safeguarding of Children – Risk Assessment Priorities for Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity



1. NAME OF SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

The Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity Directorate is responsible for the provision and management of a very wide range of services, which includes our Public Libraries, Arts services, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Play and Recreation services, Land Remediation, Cemeteries & Burial Grounds, Waste Management, Pollution Control, Environmental services, Harbours and Ports, Biodiversity, Climate Action and Beaches Water Safety

2. PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

- The Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity Directorate is committed to safeguarding all children whom our staff come into contact with.
- Our service believes that the welfare of children is paramount.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who come into contact with our staff, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm.
- Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
- All paid staff, contractors, volunteers and students must agree to abide by our Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children.
- 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.

- A Designated Liaison Officer (Director of Services, Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity (CERA)) for Child Protection and four Deputy Liaison Officers for Child Protection are available to staff who have concerns about a child and who can provide advice and guidance to staff in relation to child protection and welfare matters.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

	Identified Risk	Risk Level	Risk Owner	Procedure/Controls	Further Action
1	Public Libraries	Low	Director of Service, County Librarian, Senior Executive Librarian, Library staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda Vetting in place for library staff. • Provision of training on Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children as required. • Reporting of child welfare and protection concerns in accordance with the Children First Act 2015. 	Ongoing monitoring
2	Any Events/Launches/Awards/ External promotions	Low	Director of Service, Senior Executive Officer, Arts Office staff, Local Sports Partnership staff, Library staff. Other relevant CERASTAFF.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure no staff member is alone with a child at any time. • Provision of training on Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children as required. • Induction training to be included in Information Pack to all new staff • Provide training as required 	Ongoing monitoring Ensure no staff member is alone with a child at any time
3	School visits (Arts Office, Library, Local Sports Partnership)	Low	Local Sports Partnership team, , Arts Office Staff, Library staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff visiting schools to ensure that they are not left alone with children during school visit. • Provision of training on Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children as required. 	Ongoing monitoring

4	Work experience students within the Directorate	Low	Director of Services, Senior Executive Officer, Administrative Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student should not to be located in a room with only one member of staff. • A student should not to be taken off site by only one other member of staff. 	Ongoing monitoring
5	Engagement of outside contractors/consultant/providers of relevant services	Low	Director of Services, Senior Executive Officers, Administrative Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the outside party have in place appropriate child protection policies and procedures. • A signed declaration should be sought from the outside provider that they have read and understand the particulars outlined in the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance 2017, and TUSLA guidance. • Garda Vetting in place for all external facilitators delivering workshops or other programming to children. 	Ongoing monitoring
6	Communication with Young people in relation to any ongoing library activity	Low	Director of Service, County Librarian, Senior Executive Librarian, Library staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All communication regarding ongoing library activities involving young people must be conducted through their parent(s) or guardian(s). Direct communication with young people via personal messaging platforms such as WhatsApp, email, SMS, or any other social media or digital messaging service is not permitted under any circumstances. 	Ongoing monitoring
7	School Visits – Environmental Awareness (Green Schools) and Climate and Biodiversity Action	Low	Environmental Awareness Officers, Climate Action Team, Biodiversity Officer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff visiting schools to ensure that they are not left alone with children during school visit. 	Ongoing monitoring

8	Employment and managing of Lifeguards	Low	Water Safety Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifeguards employed in pairs (minimum 2). Garda vetting in place for Lifeguards and staff. 	Code of conduct for relevant staff. Ongoing monitoring.
9	House visits for: Waste Management Pollution Control Private Water Supplies	Low	Relevant Planning and Environment Services staff.	Awareness of Child safeguarding protocols.	Ongoing monitoring
10	Staff working in Parks, Open Spaces or Playgrounds	Low	Municipal District Office, Outdoor Operatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garda vetting in place for staff. Provision of training on Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children as required. Reporting of child welfare and protection concerns in accordance with the Children First Act 2015. 	Ongoing monitoring

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. Our policies in relation to Child Safeguarding are:

- Wicklow County Council's 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 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.

5. Reporting a Concern

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

- Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer
- Child Protection Deputy Liaison Officers

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](#).

If a child is in danger outside office hours you can contact the [Gardaí](#). Further information on Child Protection - www.tusla.ie

6. Implementation

Implementation is an on-going process. The Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity Directorate 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.

7. Review

The Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity Directorate's Child Safeguarding Statement/Assessment will be reviewed no later than December 2027.

Signed: 
Director of Services
Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity
Wicklow County Council

Date: 31/10/2025