



Never give up on a child. Ever.

ISPCCC Child Safeguarding Statement

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
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Document Title: ISPCCC Child Safeguarding Statement
Document Developed by: Caroline O' Sullivan, Director of Services
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Responsibility for Review and Audit: Service management team
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1. Introduction:

The ISPCCC is the national child protection charity.

Our Vision: An Ireland where all children are safe, heard and valued.

Our Mission: To make the protection of children everyone's priority.

Our Work: We listen, we support, we protect.

2. Services being provided:

The ISPCCC works to realise its vision by providing a range of independent and unique services to children and families that are preventative and empowering in nature. Its empowerment model of supporting young people to build their resilience and coping skills is increasingly recognised as best practice in working with children, young people and families.

Our range of services include therapeutic intervention services with individual children and families, child mentoring, parent mentoring, group-work programmes and outreach-based services. The ISPCCC also

provide a 24-hour active listening service through Childline, via telephone, text and web-based support services, and a support line operational from 9am to 1pm daily.

The core aim of all of the ISPCC's services is to build psychological resilience among young people and to increase the capacity of families to meet the needs of their children. All targeted work with children and families is preventative in nature, with the intention of building upon individual strengths and securing outcomes for at-risk groups. All ISPCC service programmes have the united purpose of reinforcing informal social networks and promoting social inclusion.

The ISPCC aims to achieve three significant outcomes in all its interventions with children:

- 1) Increased level and quality of social support for each child
- 2) Increased coping ability and individual resilience of each child
- 3) Increased ability of each child to self-regulate their own behaviour and emotions

3. ISPCC Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The ISPCC seeks to adopt and implement the highest possible standards of policy and practice in the promotion of the protection and welfare of children and young people. We are committed to safeguarding and protecting children from abuse. This ISPCC commits to ensure that where child neglect or abuse is believed or suspected to be occurring, that ISPCC staff and volunteers will effectively deal with the matter in a timely, appropriate and professional manner.

We will ensure that all staff employed in the organisation are properly vetted and checked in accordance with the law, that our recruitment practices adhere to best practice, and that staff members receive training relating to child protection and welfare.

We will at all times adopt safe care practices that minimise the possibility of harm, injury, abuse or neglect to a child utilising our services, and which encourage safe practice from staff.

We will adhere to the following guiding principles:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility
- The best interests of the child are paramount
- All interventions are strengths based and outcomes focused
- Early intervention is desirable when working with vulnerable children, and such interventions may prevent serious harm happening to them at a later stage.
- Confidentiality is acknowledged as a key principle within our work and is maintained as a primary principle within the ISPCC's services.
- Children have the right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives

- Parents/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/carers and families
- Recognising that child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity, the ISPCC will work with other agencies and organisations in the interests of children.

4. Risk Assessment and Management

The ISPCC accepts that risk exists in all aspects and all levels within the organisation. Risk management is undertaken to identify mitigate and positively manage and control the level and types of risk to which the organisation is exposed.

The ISPCC has the following risk management process in place:

- A risk policy which clearly outlines and guides the organisation's risk management process
- A risk register that records identified and assessed risks and the action steps to be taken to manage those risks. The ISPCC's risk register includes information on key risk areas, the type of risk, details of how the risk could occur, the risk assessment in terms of likelihood (probability of the risk occurring) and impact (the effect on a service user/organisation if the risk occurred) and the controls, checks and balances that are in place
- Active involvement of local, regional and senior staff and volunteers in risk management identification and evaluation processes is an essential part of the ISPCC's risk management model.

The ISPCC's risk register includes service delivery risks naming "client harm" as a key category of risk, the likelihood and impact of this risk being measured as per the ISPCC's Risk Management Policy process.

5. 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* and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

The following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- Procedures to be followed by staff / volunteers in responding to child protection and welfare concerns
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers.
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against ISPCC workers/volunteers of a child while availing of our service.
- Complaints procedure
- Childhood Support Worker/ Mentoring policy and procedures manual
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.

All procedures listed are available on request.

IMPLEMENTATION

The ISPCC recognises that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the underlying policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 13th March 2019 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

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