

Longford County Council Child Safeguarding Statement

Longford 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 children accessing Council's Services and activities.

Longford County Council provides a wide and diverse range of Local Government services to the people of County Longford. These services include Community, Housing, Environment, Roads, Fire Services, Planning & Regeneration, Enterprise, Libraries & Heritage, Arts, Sports, Civil Defence, Parks and Playgrounds.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was developed in accordance with the:

- Children First Act 2015
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)
- TUSLA's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice

Child Safeguarding Principles:

Longford County Council is committed to:

- Promoting general welfare, health, development and safety of children;
- Ensuring safe management procedures are in place for all employees and volunteers including robust recruitment, selection, supervision and supports in place
- Developing guidance and procedures for employees and volunteers who may have reasonable grounds for concern about the possible abuse or neglect of a child using the services of the Council
- Complying with our statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- 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
- Fully co-operating with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child safeguarding issues.

Risk Assessment

Longford County Council has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Risks identified and procedures for managing these risks are available upon request to Longford County Council.

Procedures

In addition to our risk assessments, **Longford County Council's Policy and Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children** supports our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our Council services.

This Policy outlines the procedure for:

- Appointment of a Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer
- Management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against employees/volunteers involved in the provision of Council services
- Provision of child safeguarding training and information to Employees/Volunteers
- Reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA and/or the Gardaí, in an emergency situation;
- Maintaining confidential records;

A copy of the Policy and Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children is available online at: www.longfordcoco.ie

Reporting a Concern

Please contact the Council's Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer if you have a Child Protection concern, or if you require any further information on the Council's Policies and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children.

Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer – Carol McDermott

Tel: 043 33 43429 **Email:** cmcdermott@longfordcoco.ie

Deputy Child Protection Liaison Officer – Ciaran McCormack

Tel: 043-33 44250 **Email:** cmccormack@longfordcoco.ie

If you have any concerns about a child outside of normal office hours, you should report it to Tusla (www.tusla.ie) or contact (044) 93 53997 (duty Social Work office for Longford).

In the event of an emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger and you cannot make contact with Tusla, you should contact An Garda Síochána on (043) 33 46741

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service 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 every 2 years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____



**Paddy Mahon,
Chief Executive**

Date: 14 December 2023