



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council**

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**Child Safeguarding Statement**

**1. Name of service being provided:** Local Authority

**2. Nature of service:** Donegal County Council as the Local Authority for County Donegal provides an extensive range of infrastructure and social services in the County. These services include the provision of social housing, the upkeep and improvement of roads, Fire Services, Library Services and a range of local and community development services.

**3. Principles to safeguard children from harm**

This Safeguarding Statement sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure as far as practicable that a child while availing of our services is safe from harm. The Council is committed to ensuring that children are protected and kept safe from harm whilst they are engaged in any activity associated with the Council. This includes ensuring appropriate policies and procedures are in place, and any concerns which come to the attention of the Local Authority are reported and recorded appropriately. The Council will ensure that employees, volunteers, parents/guardians and users of local authority services are aware of this Safeguarding Statement and the Council's Child Protection policies.

**4. Risk Assessment**

Under the Children First Act 2015, the Council must undertake a risk assessment<sup>1</sup> which considers the potential for harm to come to children while they are in the organisation's care. The risk assessment will examine all aspects of the organisation's services from a safeguarding perspective, to establish whether there are any practices or features of the service that have the potential to put children at risk. The risk assessment process is intended to enable the organisation to:

- Identify any potential risks;

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that risk in this context is the risk of abuse and not general health and safety risk.

- Develop policies and procedures to minimise risks by responding in a timely manner to potential risks; and
- Review whether adequate precautions have been taken to eliminate or reduce these risks.

The Council will ensure that all employees and volunteers are familiar with the Safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

The Council will ensure that any organisation providing services to children on behalf of the Council shall be required to provide copies of their Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.

## **5. Procedures**

The Council has developed a Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (2017). The Policy has been developed in line with the 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 Policy outlines the procedure for:

- the reporting of a child protection or welfare concern to Tusla;
- the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against employees/volunteers;
- ensuring that recruitment and selection procedures include an assessment of the person's suitability to work with children; and
- appointing a relevant or mandated person (s).

A copy of the Council's Child Protection Policy is available on request from the Human Resources Department.

The Council has appointed designated Child Protection Liaison Officer(s). Their responsibilities include:

- raising awareness across the organisation about potential risks to children's safety or welfare; and
- ensuring that child welfare and protection concerns are referred promptly to Tusla, in accordance with the Council's Reporting Procedure.

The Council will develop a Code of Behaviour to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children and young people who access services provided by the organisation.

The Council's safeguarding procedures mean that the Council can provide a safe place for children to engage with us and the services we provide, while also being able to respond appropriately as a Local Government body.

The Council will ensure that employees and volunteers receive adequate and appropriate child welfare and protection information and training, in accordance with the Children First National Guidance 2017.

The Council will identify a list of mandated persons (if any) in relevant services in accordance with the Act.

## **6. Reporting a Concern**

If you have an immediate concern about a child's welfare, this should be reported to Tusla, as the dedicated state Agency with responsibility for child protection. 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 their concerns.

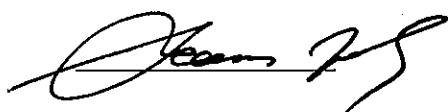
In the event of any emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger and you cannot get in contact with Tusla, you should contact An Garda Síochána.

The Council has appointed persons as the Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers in accordance with the Children First Act 2015. The contact details for the Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers are enclosed in Appendix I.

## **7. Implementation**

The Council 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 services. The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as is practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

**Signed:**



Seamus Neely  
Chief Executive

**Date:**

17<sup>th</sup> April 2018

***For queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Child Protection Liaison Officers (Appendix I)***

## Appendix I

### Contact Details for Donegal County Council Child Protection Liaison Officers

Name	Address	Phone No. & Email
Paddy Mullen Facilities Management	Donegal County Council Public Service Centre Neil T. Blaney Road Letterkenny Co. Donegal. F92 TNY3	074 91 94254  paddy.mullen@donegalcoco.ie
Frances Crampsie Cultural services	Donegal County Council Central Library Oliver Plunkett Road Letterkenny Co. Donegal F92 R273	074 91 24950  frances.crampsie@donegalcoco.ie
Una Cresswell Housing and Corporate Services	Donegal County Council Public Service Centre Malin Road Carndonagh Co. Donegal F93 YV1N	074 93 73706  una.cresswell@donegalcoco.ie
Bernadette Quinn Human Resources	Donegal County Council 3 Rivers Centre Station Road Lifford Co. Donegal F93 PN3H	074 91 72279  bquinn@donegalcoco.ie