



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

**LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

1. Name of service being provided:

Limerick City and County Council is the local authority for Limerick city and county.

2. Nature of service:

Limerick City and County Council provides and funds a broad range of services throughout the city and county. These include but not limited to planning, social housing, environmental enforcement, roads and transportation, walking and cycling routes, parks and playgrounds, libraries, sports facilities, litter control, arts centres, museum, enterprise units, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports and a vast array of local and community development services, infrastructure and grants.

3. Principles to safeguard children from harm:

Limerick City and County Council is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children in the delivery of all our services and activities. Limerick City and County Council has an overall corporate duty and responsibility to safeguard the children accessing the Council's services and activities.

Limerick City and 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 the Council's Code of Conduct for Employees is adhered as it applies to the treatment of children and young people;
- Developing a policy of interagency co-operation with Tusla and other agencies involved in the protection of a child.

4. Limerick City and County Council child-centred approach

Limerick City and County Council's child-centred approach means to:

- 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).

5. Risk Assessment

It is a mandatory requirement that an assessment of risks are carried out in accordance with Tusla's Children First National Guidance 2017. Limerick City and County Council has carried out a child safeguarding risk assessment in each Directorate that has interaction with children while availing of our services. These Risk Assessments are available upon request to Limerick City and County Council.

Risk assessments are treated as live documents that are maintained and monitored as necessary and appropriate. All Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments carried out by Limerick City and County Council list the procedures and control measures that are necessary and/or in place to mitigate any risks identified. Where necessary, risks are managed in line with the Council's Risk Management Policy.

6. Procedures

Limerick City and County Council 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*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessments, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Limerick City and 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 selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regard to that person's suitability 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.

7. Reporting a Concern

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 Gardai.

If you require any further information on Limerick City and County Council's Policies and Procedures, please contact any of the following:

Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer/Relevant Person:

Head of Corporate Services and Governance - Ciara Farrell

Tel. 061-557192 E mail : ciara.farrell@limerick.ie

Deputy Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers:

Name	Telephone No.	E mail address
Ryan McCreanor	061 557441	ryan.mccreanor@limerick.ie
Stephanie Swords	061 556012	stephanie.swords@limerick.ie
Mary Mulqueen	061 557426	mary.mulqueen@limerick.ie
Aedin Foley	061 556235	aedin.foley@limerick.ie
Liz Creamer	061 557337	liz.creamer@limerick.ie

8. 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 regularly or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this Child Safeguarding Statement refers.

Dr. Pat Daly, Director General

Limerick City and County Council