

Probation Service

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. The Probation Service is an agency of the Department of Justice and Equality and is responsible for the assessment and management of offenders in the community.

In pursuit of its mission the Probation Service is committed to the protection of children and the provision of a safe and caring environment where children are treated with dignity and respect. The Probation Service is also committed to supporting staff in this work and to providing them with the necessary supervision, support and training to enable them to perform their duties to the highest professional standards.

The development of good practice and policy procedures in the area of child protection will ensure that the potential for abuse to go unrecognised and unreported will be minimised. These procedures will assist staff to recognise the indicators of abuse, handle disclosures from a child or adult and report the allegations. This will ensure that all disclosures are dealt with promptly and professionally.

The Probation Service recognises its duty to protect and safeguard those children and young people for whom it has responsibility. It is the duty of each member of the Probation Service to comply with the Probation Service Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. The Probation Service accepts responsibility for implementing the policy and will take appropriate steps to ensure its implementation.

2. Principles

The Probation Service Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Procedures is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children is of paramount importance.
- Probation staff need to be aware of best practice in working with children and young people so that they do not expose children or themselves to unnecessary risk.
- The Probation Service is fully committed to meeting its statutory obligations in relation to responding to, and reporting, child protection and welfare concerns

3. Risk Assessment

The Service has completed a risk assessment of any potential for harm to a child while they or their parents avail of our services. Below is a list of potential risks identified and the list of procedures to mitigate and manage these risks.

**PROBATION SERVICE
CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT RISK ASSESSMENT April 2018**

Identified Risk	Procedure
<p>Possible risks posed by clients of the Probation Service to children whether they are clients of the service, or carers their parents are, when present in the public areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reception - Reception/ waiting areas and toilets - Meeting rooms 	<p>Health and Safety System HS 32 Probation Service Guideline</p> <p>HS-07 The Working Environment</p> <p>HS-07 The Working Environment</p>
<p>Service Users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All clients known to pose risks, particularly in large urban areas - Violent Offenders - Offenders under threat from others - Persons with children - Unaccompanied children/ teens - Persons on supervision who have been convicted of a sex offence - Persons not convicted of a sex offence, who are on Supervision and where there are concerns they may pose a risk to children 	<p>Resource Booking System applies</p> <p>HS-06 Preventing and Managing Violent Incidents HS- 16 Scheduling of Clients where Health and Safety concerns exist</p> <p>HS-24 Working with offenders under threat from others</p> <p>Appointment rescheduled unless children are very young Parents retain responsibility for their children at all times while in Probation Service premises</p> <p>Appointment scheduling YPP Staff Probation Service Policy Supervision commensurate with assessed risk</p> <p>Sex Offender Risk Assessment & Management (SORAM) Probation Service Policy Supervision commensurate with assessed risk</p> <p>Clients seen promptly on arrival to the office as per Customer Charter and HS-07</p>

<p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff not recognising abuse and/ or not following appropriate guidelines for reporting. - Staff, who may pose a risk to children, being recruited 	<p>Child Safeguarding Policy E-learning module and in-house training for all staff</p> <p>Safe Recruitment Procedures Supervision Protected Disclosure policy</p>
<p>Home Visits Staff acting inappropriately</p> <p>Not recognising and/or not reporting abuse</p>	<p>HS-05 Home Visiting Guidelines HS-03 Direct working with clients Supervision</p> <p>Mandated reporting</p>
<p>Probation Officers Meetings with Children</p>	<p>HS-02 Direct working with children and young persons Clients seen promptly on arrival to the office as per Customer Charter and HS-07</p>
<p>Community Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service users under eighteen years of age - Adult disclosures current/ retrospective 	<p>Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Young Persons subject to Community Service Orders Children First Awareness Raising, E-learning programme, service specific guidelines.</p>
<p>Community Based Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organisations funded through the Probation Service not having the appropriate policies - Community based organisations and individuals used by POs to refer young people who may pose a risk or not have the appropriate policies. - children placed in projects other than those for children 	<p>Service Level Agreements</p>
<p>Transition Year Students on work experience</p>	<p>Managed as per policy</p>

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 (2017)*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:


- 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 in the Probation Service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.


All procedures listed are available upon request.

4. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. The Probation 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 on 30th March 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers. The Statement will be reviewed every two years there after.

Signed:  (Director of the Probation Service)
Email: corporatesecretariat@probation.ie Telephone: 01/8173600

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015  (Director of Corporate Affairs) Email: corporatesecretariat@probation.ie Telephone: 01/8173600

For Queries please contact the local Senior Probation Officer _____