

Child Safeguarding Statement

Our Service:

Fantastic Flix is the Dublin International Film Festival's children and young people's Strand. It is a programme designed to engage the minds of the next generation of audiences and filmmakers Fantastic Flix does this by providing children and young people with greater access to cinema and film, and allowing their voices to be heard through discussion.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

Fantastic Flix is made up of a programme of of high quality Irish and International titles, a children's jury, young programmers initiative, workshops and side-events created to provide young audiences with access to a greater range of cultural cinema and filmmaking talent through a unique festival experience.

As part of the Dublin International Film Festival, Fantastic Flix has a Child Safeguarding Statement and Designated Liaison Person. There are also a Risk Assessment and a number of Procedures, Policies and a Code of Behaviour in place to ensure the safest possible environment for Children.

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Recruiting	Garda Vetting Procedures are in place, along with a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Statement and Code of Behaviour for newly recruited Staff. All new staff are required to read the Child Safeguarding Statement and it's associated documents in order to ensure best practice.
2	Multiple Staff potentially working with Children	There is a Designated Liaison Person as point of contact for all procedures and incidents. All child-related events are organised in relation with the DLP and the Circulation of Child Safeguarding Policy is ensured.
3	Working with Venue Partners	There is a Policy Statement enclosed in this document which ensures best practice for working in venues. Each venue that DIFF works with also adheres to appropriate health and safety statements.
4	Photography & Filming at Public Events	Photographers are hired by the Festival and vetted. They cannot take photographs of children without a signed consent form from a parent or guardian. These consent

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		forms also contain the appropriate wording for guidelines of use.
5	In Case of an incident	All staff are directed to the DLP and Managing Director in case of an incident. There are clear reporting guidelines in place for dealing with a disclosure.
6	Confidentiality for the Child, Confidentiality for staff	Confidentiality Statement in place to ensure children's and staff rights to confidentiality.
7	Allegations against Staff	Our first priority is to ensure that no child or young person is exposed to unnecessary risk. In respect of the person against whom the allegation is made the Managing Director and DLP will deal with issues related to the staff member as outlined in our policy statement.
8	Accidents Procedures	Dublin International Film Festival has a comprehensive Health and Safety Statement which is reviewed annually. We also work with partner venues with Health and Safety procedures which are made available to us. We always host events in safe environments for children.

Child Protection Policy Statements, Procedures and Code of Behaviour

Dublin International Film Festival is committed to providing a safe environment and a positive experience for all children and young people with whom we interact.

Procedures and policies, in accordance with guidelines outlined in *Children First, National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* have been implemented as follows:

- Code of behaviour for all staff
- Dublin International Film Festival Policy Statement
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse
- Confidentiality statement
- Staff recruitment, training and management policy
- Policy Statement on the involvement of primary carers
- Procedures to deal with allegations of misconduct or abuse by staff
- Policy Statement on Circulating information to staff and complainants
- Procedures for the recording of incidents and accidents.

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Any issues or concerns regarding the safety and welfare of children or young people at Dublin International Film Festival should be reported to the:

Designated Child Protection Officer

Sarah Ahern Tel: 01 662 4260 / 085 111 0445

Managing Director

Sarah Sharkey Tel: 1 662 4260

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 on _____, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____ (Provider)

Sarah Ahern, projects@diff.ie, 01 6624260

For queries, please contact Sarah Ahern, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Code of behaviour for staff at Dublin International Film Festival

The following code of behaviour for all staff at Dublin International Film Festival has been drawn up to ensure a positive experience for children and young people taking part in Dublin International Film Festival workshops or events.

Child-centred Approach

- Create and encourage a friendly, welcoming and positive atmosphere at all times;
- Listen to and respect children and young people;
- Use appropriate physical and verbal language at all times.
- Respect a child's or young person's personal space;
- Treat all children and young people equally and as individuals;
- Respect differences of ability, culture, religion, race and sexual orientation.
- Observe appropriate dress and behaviour.

Best Practice

- Make primary carers, children/young people, visitors and facilitators aware of the Child Protection Policy and procedures;

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- Keep primary carers informed of any issues that concern their children;
- Staff should report and record any incidents and accidents;
- Staff should report any concerns to the Designated Child Protection Officer;
- Be inclusive of children and young people with special needs;
- Be cognisant of a child or young person's limitations (for example due to a medical condition);
- Use age-appropriate teaching aids and materials;
- Proper supervision based on adequate ratios according to age, abilities and activities will be maintained at all times;
- A register of children/young people attending Dublin International Film Festival run workshops will be kept detailing name, address, phone, special requirements and emergency contact details;
- Provide encouragement, support and praise regardless of ability;
- Offer constructive criticism when needed;
- Plan and be sufficiently prepared, both mentally and physically;
- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children/young people;
- Avoid if at all possible giving a lift to a child/young person unless you are accompanied by another primary carer or trained staff member. If you do then make sure that primary carers are informed;
- Encourage children and young people to report any bullying, concerns or worries;
- Ensure all children attending camps or workshops are collected from within the building;
- Ensure that all DIFF events involving children/young people take place in venues that have a child protection policy and that both DIFF and the hosting venue adhere to both Child Protection policies for the event.

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Inappropriate behaviour

- Don't single out a particular child/young person for unfair favouritism, criticism, ridicule, or unwelcome focus or attention;
- Don't use or allow offensive or sexually suggestive physical and/or verbal language;
- Don't socialise inappropriately with children/young people, e.g., outside of structured organisational activities.

Physical contact

- Don't allow/engage in any inappropriate touching;
- Don't hit or physically chastise children/young people;
- Seek consent of child/young person in relation to physical contact except in an emergency or a dangerous situation;
- Avoid horseplay;
- Check with children/young people about their level of comfort when doing touch exercises.

Health and safety

- In the event of an emergency staff must be aware of and follow the venue emergency procedures in place;
- Primary carers and children should be informed of emergency evacuation procedures;
- Staff will facilitate entry and exit of school groups to events to assist teachers in keeping groups together;
- Don't leave children unattended or unsupervised;
- Manage any dangerous materials and/or equipment;
- Staff should be aware of accident procedure and follow accordingly.

Dublin International Film Festival Policy Statement

Dublin International Film Festival, for the benefit of young people (under 18 years), abides by the guidelines of the State for the Child Protection, as outlined in *Children First, National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, published in 1999*.

We will provide venues and organisations that we work with a copy of our Child Protection Policy. We will work within the following guidelines:

- **No more than 1,000** children should be at a Dublin International Film Festival event at any one time. We will keep a record of all participants of the event who are under 18 years of age for workshops run by DIFF. When we work with partner organisations/schools etc we will ask them to supply a full list of attendees.
- For paid attendance screenings, attendance is recorded through box office data.
- Children will be supervised at all times, with at least two supervisors to each room being used and two in the corridor.
- Children should **always be collected by parents at the front door** at the entrance of building. At least one supervisor must be present at this point to monitor the collection of young children by the appropriate parent or guardian.
- Cameras, camera phones or other recording devices are not permitted in screens or any other areas in use by children.
- Events for, or incorporating children may not be recorded. Parents must be informed in advance by the organiser that photographs may not be taken during performances. Permission will be sought in advance for filming and photography for official Festival documentation.
- We will ensure that all personnel and volunteers working with children are suitable to that role and are made aware of their responsibilities and have undergone any necessary training.

Reporting procedures at Dublin International Film Festival

Sarah Ahern is the Child Protection Officer and is the designated contact if you have an issue or concern about any aspect of a child's or young person's safety and welfare. Reference to the definitions of abuse can be found later in this document.

According to *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* the following would constitute reasonable grounds for concern:

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- specific indication from the child or young person that s/he has been abused or neglected (**full definition and explanations regarding Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Neglect are in the Appendix to the rear of this document**)*;
- an account by a person who saw the child/young person being abused;
- evidence, such as an injury or behaviour, which is consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused another way;
- an injury or behaviour which is consistent both with abuse and with an innocent explanation but where there are corroborative indicators supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse (an example of this would be a pattern of injuries, an implausible explanation, other indications of abuse, dysfunctional behaviour);
- consistent indication, over a period of time that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.
- For retrospective allegations and disclosures, if there is a reasonable concern about past abuse, it is necessary, the DLP with report to Tusla. If a staff member has a reasonable concern, then the staff member should report this to the DLP.

Dealing with a disclosure

- Stay calm and listen to the child/young person, as over-reacting may alarm the young person and compound feelings of anxiety and guilt
- Listen carefully and attentively; take the young person seriously;
- Reassure the young person that they have taken the right action in telling;
- Don't use leading questions or prompt details;
- Reassure the child/young person but do not make false promises, particularly regarding secrecy
- Don't make the child/young person repeat the details unnecessarily;
- Check with the young person to ensure that what has been heard and understood by you is accurate;
- Ask questions only for the purpose of clarification. Be supportive, but do not ask leading questions or seek intimate details beyond those volunteered by the child. Detailed investigative interviews will, if necessary, be carried out by CFA/Tusla staff or members of an Garda Síochána;

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- Do not express any opinions about the alleged abuser;
- Record the conversation as soon as possible, in as much detail as possible. Sign and date the report;
- Explain to the child/young person what will happen next (explanation should be age-appropriate)
- Pass the information to the Child Protection Officer/designated person, who will in turn report it to CFA/Tusla and/or An Garda Siochana
- Treat the information confidentially, sharing it only with persons who have a right to hear it.

What information to include:

To help Tusla staff assess your reasonable concern, they need as much information as possible. You should provide as much relevant information as you can about the child, his/her home circumstances and the grounds for concern. These could include:

- The child's name, address and age
- Names and addresses of parents or guardians
- Names, if known, of who is allegedly harming the child or not caring for them appropriately
- A detailed account of your grounds for concern (e.g. details of the allegation, dates of incidents, and description of injuries)
- Names of other children in the household
- Name of school the child attends Your name, contact details and relationship to the child

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Recording procedures

- Any incidents involving children will be recorded in the Child Protection Incident Book held by the Designated Officer.
- Any accidents involving children will be recorded in the accident book located in the Festival office and with the partner organisation where appropriate.
- Staff or primary carers should report any concerns to the Designated Child Protection Officer or the Deputy Child Protection Officer.
- All details, including the date, time and people involved in the concern or disclosure will be recorded on an incidents report form. Information recorded should be factual. Any opinions should be supported by facts.
- The Child Protection Officer may contact the Health Service Executive Duty Social Work Department or Tusla for an informal consultation prior to making a report.
- If there are reasonable grounds for concern the Child Protection Officer will contact Tusla or the Duty Social Worker in the Health Service Executive area verbally initially and then using the standard reporting form available from the Health Service Executive.
- Any person who expresses concern will be involved and kept informed.
- Parents, carers or responsible adults will be made aware of a concern or report to the Health Service Executive unless it is likely to put the child/young person at further risk.
- Information will be shared on a strictly 'need to know' basis (see confidentiality statement).

Confidentiality statement

We in Dublin International Film Festival are committed to ensuring peoples' rights to confidentiality. However, in relation to child protection and welfare we undertake that:

- Information will only be forwarded on a 'need to know' basis in order to safeguard the child/young person.
- Giving such information to others for the protection of a child or young person is not a breach of confidentiality.
- We cannot guarantee total confidentiality where the best interests of the child or young person are at risk.

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- Primary carers, children and young people have a right to know if personal information is being shared and/or a report is being made to the Health Service Executive, unless doing so could put the child/young person at further risk.
- Images of a child/young person will not be used for any reason without the consent of the parent/carer (however, we cannot guarantee that cameras/videos will not be used at public performances).
- Procedures will be put in place in relation to the use of images of children/ young people.
- The incident book and any records or statements involving children will be held in a secure location by the Designated Officer.

Staff Recruitment, Training and Management Policy

Staff Recruitment

We will ensure that staff are carefully selected, trained and supervised to provide a safe environment for all children and young people, by observing the following principles

- Roles and responsibilities will be clearly defined for every job (paid or voluntary)
- We will endeavour to select the most suitably qualified personnel
- Candidates will be required to complete an application process.
- Staff will be selected by a panel of at least two (or more) representatives through an interview process.
- Hired staff will be made aware of our Child Protection Policy and code of behaviour.
- An appropriate probationary period for all newly-employed staff will be implemented.

No person who would be deemed to constitute a 'risk' will be employed. Some of the exclusions would include

- ❖ any child-related convictions;
- ❖ refusal to sign application form and declaration form;
- ❖ insufficient documentary evidence of identification;
- ❖ concealing information on one's suitability to working with children.

All staff will be required to consent to Garda vetting, and where available, this will be sought.

Staff management

To protect both staff and children/young people, we undertake that:

New staff will:

- Take part in a mandatory induction training session
- Be made aware of the organisation's code of conduct, child protection procedures, and the identity and role of who has been designated to deal with issues of concern
- Undergo a probationary or trial period

All staff will

- Receive an adequate level of supervision and review of their work practices
- Be expected to have read and signed the Child Protection Policy Statement

All staff working directly with children/young people will be provided with the necessary child protection training.

Policy statement on the involvement of primary carers

Dublin International Film Festival is committed to co-operating with all primary carers in an open and constructive manner to ensure that the interests and welfare of the child are paramount at all times. To that end we:

- Encourage primary carers to work in partnership with us under the guidelines set out by our organisation to ensure the safety of their children;
- Have a designated Child Protection Officer available for consultation with primary carers in the case of any concern over a child or young person's welfare.

We undertake to

- Provide primary carers attending our event a copy of our child protection policy, on request;
- Inform primary carers and schools of all activities and potential activities;
- Comply with health and safety practices;
- Operate child-centred policies in accordance with best practice;
- Issue contact/consent forms for all children's workshops operated by Dublin International Film Festival;
- Adhere to our recruitment guidelines;
- Ensure as far as possible that the activities are age-appropriate;
- Encourage and facilitate the involvement of parent(s), carer(s) or responsible adult(s), where appropriate.

If we have concerns about the welfare of the child/young person, we will

- Respond to the needs of the child or young person;
- Inform the primary carers on an on-going basis unless this action puts the child or young person at further risk;
- Contact local Health Service Executive, CFA/Tusla and Gardaí where appropriate;
- In the event of a complaint against a member of staff, we will immediately ensure the safety of the child/young person and inform primary carers as appropriate.

Policy statement on dealing with allegations against staff

In respect of the child/young person the Child Protection Officer will deal with issues related to the child/young person.

In respect of the person against whom the allegation is made the Managing Director will deal with issues related to the staff member.

- Our first priority is to ensure that no child or young person is exposed to unnecessary risk;
- Reporting procedures as outlined in our Child Protection Policy must be followed;
- If allegations are made against the Designated Person, then the Deputy Designated Person should be contacted;
- Both the primary carers and child/young person will be informed of actions planned and taken;
- The child/young person will be dealt with in an age-appropriate manner;
- The staff member will be informed as soon as possible of the nature of the allegation and will be given the opportunity to respond;
- The chairperson/head of the organisation will be informed of any allegation against a staff member as soon as possible;
- Any action following an allegation of abuse against an employee will be taken in consultation with Health Service Executive, CFA/Tusla and An Garda Síochána;
- After consultation, the chairperson/head of organisation will advise the person accused and agreed procedures will be followed.

Complaints and Comments Procedures

Dublin International Film Festival recognises that primary carers, children/young people and staff have a right to make a complaint if they are not satisfied with the action taken in relation to any incident reported and to have that complaint addressed.

Complaints or comments will be dealt with as follows:

- Complaints or comments will be responded to within four weeks.
- The Designated Officer has responsibility for directing complaints/comments to the board of Directors of Dublin International Film Festival;
- All verbal complaints will be logged and responded to;
- In relation to an allegation against staff an appeals procedure is available by way of the board of directors of Dublin International Film Festival.

Accidents Procedures at Dublin International Film Festival

Dublin International Film Festival has a comprehensive Health and Safety Statement which is reviewed annually

- A risk assessment of every area Festival and out-of-festival event is carried out;
- External organisations with whom we work must provide proof that they have public liability insurance;
- First-aid boxes are located at the Festival offices. When working at external venues, DIFF staff will liaise with the venue staff regarding the location of the venue's first-aid boxes. The location of first-aid boxes will be made known to all staff on duty;
- The location of the first-aid box is known to all staff;
- The accident book is located in the Festival office and is known to staff;
- Children and young people must be advised of risks of dangerous material;
- There are procedures in place in the event of an accident.

In situations that threaten the immediate safety of a child/ young person, it may be necessary to contact the Gardaí.

Appendix*

Definitions of abuse

There are four main categories of abuse as outlined in *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*. The following is a synopsis of the information contained in that document. For the full definitions please refer to *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* 1999 (pp.32-34).

1. Neglect

“Neglect can be defined as being where the child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, medical care....The threshold of significant harm is reached when the child’s needs are neglected to the extent that his or her well-being and/or development are severely affected.” (*Children First* p.31)

Examples of Neglect:

- Abandonment or desertion
- Persistently being left alone without adequate care and supervision
- Malnourishment, lacking food
- Persistent failure to attend school
- Failure to provide adequate care for a child’s medical problems » Exploited, overworked

Significant Harm:

Harm can be defined as the ill treatment or the impairment of the health or development of a child. Whether it is *significant* is determined by the child’s health and development as compared to that which could reasonably be expected of a child of a similar age. *Neglect* generally becomes apparent in different ways over a period of time rather than at one specific point.

2. Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse usually happens where there is a relationship between a carer and a child rather than as a specific incident or incidents. “Unless other forms of abuse are present, it is rarely manifested in terms of physical signs or symptoms.” (*Children First* p.31) Rather, it can manifest in the child’s behaviour or physical functioning. Examples of these include ‘anxious’ attachment, unhappiness, low self-esteem, educational and developmental underachievement and uncooperative or hostile behaviour. “The threshold of significant harm is reached when interaction is predominantly abusive and become typical of the relationship between the child and the parent/ carer.” (*Children First* p.32)

- Examples of emotional abuse in children include:
 - Imposition of negative attributes on children, expressed by persistent criticism,
 - sarcasm, hostility or blaming;
 - Conditional Parenting
 - Emotional unavailability by the child’s parent/carer;
 - Unresponsiveness, inconsistent or inappropriate expectations of the child;
 - Premature imposition of responsibility on the child;

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- Unrealistic or inappropriate expectations of the child's capacity to understand something or to behave and control him/herself in a certain way;
- Under or over-protection of the child;
- Failure to show interest in, or provide age appropriate opportunities for a child's cognitive and emotional development;
- Use of unreasonable or over harsh disciplinary measures;
- Exposure to domestic violence.

3. Physical abuse

Physical abuse of a child is that which results in actual or potential physical harm from an interaction, or lack of interaction, which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power or trust. There may be single or repeated incidents. Physical abuse can involve:

- Severe physical punishment
- Beating, slapping, hitting or kicking
- Pushing, shaking or throwing
- Terrorising with threats
- Observing violence
- Deliberate poisoning
- Allowing or creating a substantial risk of significant harm to a child

4. Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves the use of a child for gratification or sexual arousal by a person for themselves or others.

Examples of sexual abuse include:

- Exposure of the sexual organs or any sexual act intentionally performed in the presence of a child;
- Intentional touching or molesting of the body of a child whether by a person or object for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification;
- Masturbation in the presence of the child or involvement of the child in an act of masturbation;
- Sexual intercourse with a child whether oral, vaginal or anal;
- Sexual exploitation of a child... may also include showing sexually explicit material to children which is often a feature of the 'grooming' process by perpetrators of abuse;
- Consensual sexual activity involving an adult and an underage person. In relation to child sexual abuse, it should be noted that, for the purposes of the criminal law, the age of consent to sexual intercourse is 17 years for both boys and girls

Other factors in relation to child abuse:

- Peer abuse
- Organised abuse
- Child Abuse Online

Relevant Legislation

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There are a number of key pieces of legislation that relate to child welfare and protection. The information here gives a brief overview of relevant legislation. It is not intended as legal opinion or advice and, if in doubt, you should consult the original legislation.

CHILD CARE ACT 1991

This is the key piece of legislation which regulates child care policy in Ireland. Under this Act, Tusla has a statutory responsibility to promote the welfare of children who are not receiving adequate care and protection. If it is found that a child is not receiving adequate care and protection, Tusla has a duty to take appropriate action to promote the welfare of the child. This may include supporting families in need of assistance in providing care and protection to their children. The Child Care Act also sets out the statutory framework for taking children into care, if necessary.

PROTECTIONS FOR PERSONS REPORTING CHILD ABUSE ACT 1998

This Act protects you if you make a report of suspected child abuse to designated officers of Tusla, the Health Service Executive (HSE) or to members of the Gardaí as long as the report is made in good faith and is not malicious. Designated officers also include persons authorised by the Chief Executive Officer of Tusla to receive and acknowledge reports of mandated concerns about a child from mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015. This legal protection means that even if you report a case of suspected child abuse and it proves unfounded, a plaintiff who took an action would have to prove that you had not acted reasonably and in good faith in making the report. If you make a report in good faith and in the child's best interests, you may also be protected under common law by the defence of qualified privilege. You can find the full list of persons in Tusla and the HSE who are designated officers under the 1998 Act, on the website of each agency (www.tusla.ie and www.hse.ie).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 2006

Section 176 of this Act created an offence of reckless endangerment of children. This offence may be committed by a person who has authority or control over a child or abuser who intentionally or recklessly endangers a child by:

1. Causing or permitting the child to be placed or left in a situation that creates a substantial risk to the child of being a victim of serious harm or sexual abuse; or
2. Failing to take reasonable steps to protect a child from such a risk while knowing that the child is in such a situation.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION ON OFFENCES AGAINST CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS) ACT 2012

Under this Act, it is a criminal offence to withhold information about a serious offence, including a sexual offence, against a person under 18 years or a vulnerable person. The offence arises where a person knows or believes that a specified offence has been committed against a child or vulnerable person and

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he or she has information which would help arrest, prosecute or convict another person for that offence, but fails without reasonable excuse to disclose that information, as soon as it is practicable to do so, to a member of An Garda Síochána. The provisions of the Withholding legislation are in addition to any reporting requirements under the Children First Act 2015.

NATIONAL VETTING BUREAU (CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS) ACTS 2012–2016

Under these Acts, it is compulsory for employers to obtain vetting disclosures in relation to anyone who is carrying out relevant work with children or vulnerable adults. The Acts create offences and penalties for persons who fail to comply with their provisions. Statutory obligations on employers in relation to Garda vetting requirements for persons working with children and vulnerable adults are set out in the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016.

CHILDREN FIRST ACT 2015

The Children First Act 2015 is an important addition to the child welfare and protection system as it will help to ensure that child protection concerns are brought to the attention of Tusla without delay. The Act provides for mandatory reporting of child welfare and protection concerns by key professionals; comprehensive risk assessment and planning for a strong organisational culture of safeguarding in all services provided to children; a provision for a register of non-compliance; and the statutory underpinning of the existing Children First Interdepartmental Implementation Group which promotes and oversees cross-sectoral implementation and compliance with Children First.

CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) ACT 2017

This Act addresses the sexual exploitation of children and targets those who engage in this criminal activity. It creates offences relating to the obtaining or providing of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It also creates offences of the types of activity which may occur during the early stages of the predatory process prior to the actual exploitation of a child, for example, using modern technology to prey on children and making arrangements to meet with a child where the intention is to sexually exploit the child. The Act also recognises the existence of underage, consensual peer relationships where any sexual activity falls within strictly defined age limits and the relationship is not intimidatory or exploitative.

Social Work Dept Contact Details

Principle Social Worker

Joanne Cullen
102 Patrick Street
Dun Laoghaire
Tel (01) 236 5120

Health Service Executive ‘Keeping Safe’ Information and Advice Person

Edwina Flavin / Jan Perrin

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Children & Families Training & Development Unit
Crumlin
Co Dublin
Tel (01) 415 6961

Bridewell Garda Station
28/30 Chancery Street
Dublin 7
D07 E424
Tel (01) 666 8200

Tusla - Child and Family Agency
The Brunel Building
Heuston South Quarter
Saint John's Road West
Dublin 8
D08 X01F
Tel (01) 771 8500