



**Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council**

# **Wexford County Council Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Version 1.0  
November 2021**

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## **1. Name of Service being Provided**

Wexford County Council is the Local Authority for the County of Wexford. Extending to an area of 2,365km<sup>2</sup>, with a resident population of 149,722 (Census 2016) the county is home to 54,289 private households with close to 16,000 registered enterprises across all sectors.

## **2. Nature of Service**

Wexford County Council provides a range of services across roads, environment, planning, housing, libraries, economic & enterprise, arts, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports to a large number of small businesses and community groups.

## **3. Principles to Safeguard Children From harm**

Wexford County Council is committed to the protection and safeguarding of children in how we approach our work with children and in the delivery of all our service and activities. The LA has an overall corporate responsibility and duty to safeguard children who access the services and activities we provide.

Wexford County Council is committed to:

- Promoting general welfare, including the healthy development and safety of children;
- Ensuring safe management procedures are in place for all staff and volunteers of the organisation, including robust recruitment, selection, supervision and support policies and procedures;
- Continued development of 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 and the Relevant Person 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 the potential risks to children's safety / welfare;
- Development procedures for responding to accidents and complaints involving children;

- Development and maintaining clear record keeping and complaints involving children;
- Ensuring the development and maintenance of a *Code of Behaviour* to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children and young people in the organisation;
- Continuing the interagency cooperation with TUSLA and other agencies involved in the protection of children.

### **Wexford County Council's Child Centred Approach**

Wexford County Council's child centred approach means we will:

- Treat all children equally
- Listen to and respect children
- Involve children as appropriate in the development of Council services
- Provide encouragement, support and praise (regardless of ability) to children
- 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 for example school / exams when scheduling activities
- Create an atmosphere of trust
- Be aware of and actively promote equality for children under the 9 grounds as per the Equal Status Acts 2000-2015:
  - Gender
  - Civil Status

- Family Status
  - Age
  - Race
  - Religion
  - Disability
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Membership of the Travelling Community
- Use all information gathered in respect of children only for the purpose for which it is given, subject to child protection concern/concerns and in line with GDPR Regulations (2018).

#### **4. Risk Assessment**

Risk Assessments are carried out across our services in order to consider the potential harm that may come to a child while availing of our services and to put in place appropriate actions and responses to reduce this risk. These documents are considered 'living' documents and are subject to ongoing review. Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements are drafted and maintained by all sections of the Local Authority that come into contact with children while delivering services. These statements are available on the Councils website as well as in printed format by request.

#### **5. 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 TUSLAs Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

The following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- Wexford County Councils Policy & Procedure for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children;
- Procedure for undertaking a Risk Assessment and development of Child Safeguarding Statements for all relevant Local Authority sections;
- 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 the 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;
- A list of contact details for Relevant and Mandated persons is available from the HR section

## 6. Reporting a Concern

Please contact one of the following if you have a concern or if you require any further information on the Councils Policies and Procedures:

- **Relevant Person**
  - SEO Corporate Services (County Secretary)
- **Child Protection Liaison Officers – Designated and Deputies**
  - SEO Corporate Services (County Secretary)
- **HR Support**
  - Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources

The above persons can be contacted as follows:

- By telephone           053 9196000
- By Email                [customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie)

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 County Wexford, this is:

**Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ely House Wexford 053 91 98201**

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 of office hours you can contact the Gardai. For further information on Child Protection see [www.TUSLA.ie](http://www.TUSLA.ie).

## **7. Implementation**

Implementation of Child Safeguarding Corporate Statement is an ongoing process. Wexford County 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within 24 months or sooner should there be a material change to any matter or policy to which the statement refers.

**Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive**

**Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford County Council**

**Phone: 053 9196000**

**Email: [customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie)**