

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement

IWA provides a range of services to children and young people in our Community Support Services, Assisted Living Services, Motoring Assessment, Advice and Tuition Service, Holiday Service and IWA-Sport Clubs and Sports Sections.

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for IWA. Everyone in IWA has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that each child/young person availing of our services is safe and protected from harm (physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect).

The IWA Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS) and the policies and procedures outlined below applies to all IWA employees, volunteers and external contractors/facilitators and any person performing any role or function in, or on behalf of, IWA. IWA has a 'NO TOLERANCE' approach to any forms of abuse.

The IWA Corporate CSS states the corporate perspective on how the Association prevents harm to children availing of our services and activities. IWA services are required to implement a Subsidiary CSS that demonstrates how each service prevents harm to children who avail of their services. The Subsidiary CSS' are informed by the risk assessment processes for each service.

IWA's Corporate CSS has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015. In addition to the risk assessment documents described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities/services.

Procedures

IWA's policies and procedures aim to promote safe environments for children and young people; to lessen the potential for risk to arise; and to manage it safely where it does. In addition to the procedures outlined in the Subsidiary CSS Risk Assessments, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of any IWA service/activity:

- Recruitment policies and procedures to ensure the recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers who are suitable to work with children, including the IWA Garda vetting policy;
- Mandatory Safeguarding Training for all staff incorporating face-to-face and e-learning programmes;

- HR Policies and Procedures to investigate an allegation of abuse or misconduct made against employees or volunteers;
- Child Protection Policy and Procedure outlining the recognition and reporting procedures;
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedure to ensure all risks are identified and controlled to reduce the likelihood and impact of accidents or incidents;
- Services and activities are managed through Operations Manuals, policies and procedures and standard operating procedures to ensure a high standard of service is provided;
- IWA implements a process for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons in the Association;
- IWA has appointed a relevant person to be the first point of contact for the Corporate CSS. Each Subsidiary CSS is required to appoint a Relevant Person to be the first point of contact for the service specific Subsidiary CSS.

Implementation

The Senior Management Team is responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Corporate CSS are in place and operating effectively. The Subsidiary CSS' are being implemented by the management teams who oversee those services. In IWA-Sport; each Sports Club and Sports Section that works with junior athletes/players completes the risk assessment and Subsidiary CSS process which is being managed by the Club Committee Officials and they are required to submit completed documentation to IWA-Sport as the National Governing Body.

This Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 11/02/2020, or as soon as practicable if there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For further information please contact Daragh Kennedy, National Safeguarding Officer (Relevant Person for the IWA Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement) on 087-9975444 or daragh.kennedy@iwa.ie.

Signed by:



Rosemary Keogh, CEO

Date:

9/8/18