

The Muiriosa Foundation provides a range of health and social services to children and adults across Laois, Offaly, Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, Tipperary, Longford and Kilkenny.

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people is a core objective and key priority for the Muiriosa Foundation. Every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of and/or attending our service is safe and protected from harm (physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect). Muiriosa Foundation policies and procedures have been developed to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise; and to manage it safely where it does. The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all Muiriosa Foundation staff (employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any person performing any role or function in, or on behalf of, the Muiriosa Foundation). This Child Safeguarding Statement IS informed by the following risk assessment.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff	Pre-employment checks including garda vetting Professional standards for healthcare staff Professional registration for healthcare professionals Code of Behaviour for staff Trust in Care Policy Muiriosa Foundation Child Protection and Welfare Policy Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding recruitment, safe practice and service delivery Vision statement of the Muiriosa Foundation acknowledges our commitment to up-holding the rights of every child and young person availing of services
2.	Risk of harm to a child from service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	Policies relevant to support service provision Staff supervision and training Reporting procedure
3.	Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act and National Guidance	Governance structure Compliance monitoring and audit of Muiriosa Foundation services
4.	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	Staff information, supervision and training Reporting procedure Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting "An Introduction to Children First mandatory eLearning training for all Muiriosa Foundation staff. Further training and support e.g. briefings for mandated persons provided Consultation with service users (talking with and listening to the child; information regarding safe practice on admission; All persons employed by the Muiriosa Foundation who support children or families of children will inform TUSLA that they are mandated persons

Procedures

This 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). In addition to the procedures outlined in the risk assessment, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of any Muiriosa Foundation service:

- o Recruitment policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are suitable to work with children, including
Garda vetting policy;
- o Trust in Care policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member;
- o Child Protection and Welfare Policy outlining the Muiriosa Foundation's reporting procedure;
- o "An Introduction to Children First*" mandatory e-learning training for all Muiriosa Foundation staff
- o Requirement on Muiriosa Foundation to maintain a list of Mandated Persons in their area;
- o Requirement on Designated Liaison Persons (DLP's)
- o Integrated Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm;
- o Accident/Incident Management policy to inform HSE management of any incident where a child has been harmed whilst availing of the service.

The Muiriosa Foundation has established Governance Structures which supports and monitors the implementation of Children First across the Muiriosa Foundation.

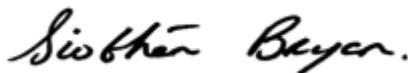
Implementation

All staff, local and senior managers and DLP's are responsible for ensuring that the policy and procedures are operating effectively.

Child Safeguarding Statements must be developed across Muiriosa Foundation family support/respite and pre-school services.

- This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signature:



Siobhán Bryan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER