

Child Safeguarding Statement (page 1 of 2)

1. Name of service being provided:

Hope Cancer Support Centre CLG provides support services to people with cancer and their family members/carers. We also provide Counselling and Therapy services to children of people who have/had a cancer diagnosis or who have been bereaved.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

(brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):

Provision of Counselling services, Art therapy and Play Therapy to children whose parents have/had a cancer diagnosis.

CLIMB (Children’s Lives include Moments of Bravery) Programme

Hope Cancer Support Centre CLG is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to provide a safe environment in which they can be supported.

We are committed to child centred practice in all our work with children and full compliance with **Children First** and our duty to care.

We recognise the right of children to be protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to and have their views taken into consideration in matters that affect them.

3. Risk assessment

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 manage risk identified	Procedure in place to manage the risk identified Procedure in place to
1 Lone working with children	Guardians are required to attend the premises during the CLIMB programme We do not provide other counselling services to children in the Hope Centre Guardians are required to accompany children to Counselling/Therapy services provided by counsellors on an outreach basis Facilitators and volunteers attending the CLIMB programme do not work alone with children
2 Interaction with adults	The CLIMB programme is delivered by trained facilitators. Adults attending the premises during the CLIMB programme have completed the HSE required online course “Introduction to child Protection”.
3 Interaction with other children	Children interact with other children during the CLIMB programme. Maximum participant age is 12 years old. Children are not left without adult supervision.
4 Recruitment	All staff, Therapists and Volunteers who interact with vulnerable people including children, are subject to Garda Vetting as part of our recruitment process.
5 Recognition of abuse Allegations of abuse Reporting of abuse	Hope Cancer Support Centre CLG has appointed a Designated Liaison Person and a Deputy Designated Liaison Person. All staff and volunteers working with children are familiar with the definitions of abuse as outlined in <i>Children First</i> and the signs and symptoms of abuse All Staff, Therapists and Volunteers are aware of their responsibilities for reporting concerns and/or incidents regarding the safety or well-being of children to the Designated Liaison Person

Hope Cancer Support Centre CLG

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4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance*, 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 (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated Persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 at least every two years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:	Chairperson
(Provider)	Hope Cancer Support Centre CLG
[Provider's name and contact details]	22 Weafer Street, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
For queries, please contact	DLP Linda O'Reilly (Client Services Manager) Deputy DLP Mary O'Halloran (Client Services Coordinator)
Contact Number	053 9238555
Mandated Persons under the Children First Act 2015:	Client Service Coordinators/Manager, Counsellors, Psychotherapists, Therapists.
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015:	General Manager, Hope Cancer Support Centre CLG

See Children First : National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017

Tusla Guidelines and Appendices form part of the Child protection processes in the Hope Cancer Support Centre CLG including reference points, legal requirements and forms.

Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service:

General Manager and/or Board member should be made aware of allegations that arise against workers, contractors or volunteers. General Manager will report such allegations to the Board of Directors. The General Manager and The Board will meet as soon as possible to discuss the detail, (Legal advice will be sought if required) and to seek response from worker, contractor or volunteer and to determine if report should be made to Tusla. Reports if required will be made without delay.

Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children:

All workers, contractors, volunteers working with children will be subject to Garda Vetting process and reference provision and checking.

Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm:

Contractors and therapists will comply with their relevant registered association child protection guidelines and requirements. Staff and volunteers involved with the CLIMB programme will complete the HSE required training "Introduction to Child Protection" prior to commencement of the programme.

Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.

To support efficient, safe and secure making of reports of child protection and welfare concerns, Tusla - Child and Family Agency have an online Web Portal (<https://portal.tusla.ie/>) for making reports of concern.

The Portal should be used to report all types of child protection and welfare concerns i.e. (a) mandated reports of child harm and (b) reasonable grounds of concern. You can also submit Retrospective Abuse Report Forms (RARFs) using the web portal.

Please be advised that this is the recommended method for submitting a report of a Child Protection and Welfare Concern to Tusla. Submission of reports through email/encrypted email is not considered a secure method of reporting. Reporters who cannot access the online portal, for whatever reason, should seek the support of their line managers in doing so. If accessing the online portal is not possible then reports should be submitted via registered post to Tusla or delivered to Tusla in person.

Please note: For data protection reasons, no personal information (including the name or initials of the child) will be kept on the portal. The portal will only retain a high level record of your submission (Reference Number). Where multiple reports are made by an individual, it is advisable to keep a record of the relevant Reference Number provided that is associated to the child for which the report of concern has been made.

A short [user guide](#) is available to assist if you are making your first report using the [web portal](#).

Out of hours reporting may be made to An Garda Siochana, Wexford district.

Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated Persons: See Appendix 2

Registered Workers	}	providing services
Psychotherapists	}	to children through the
Play and Art Therapists	}	Hope Cancer Support Centre

Procedure for appointing a relevant person- The Board of Directors appoint the General Manager as **relevant person** to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement.