

11/11/2020

**Re: Update on: The National Child Safeguarding Programme; Early Learning and Care**

Dear Early Years Owner/Voluntary Management Committee/Manager/Staff

**Please circulate the following important information to ALL Staff in your service** - The National Child Safeguarding Programme; Early Learning and Care is the only Tusla approved, Early Learning and Care (ELC) sector specific Child Safeguarding training programme, however due to current Public Health advice this one to one training is currently on hold. We understand that there are many ELC services that require training as certs are out of date, therefore in order to keep staff, children, families and communities safe it is advised that all staff should complete the Tusla ELearning Programme. The programme can be found here <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>. In terms of staff CPD, there is a short revision presentation available for all staff on the First 5 CPD page - <https://first5.gov.ie/practitioners/continuing-professional-development> Keep a record of certification on file once completed.

The Child safeguarding website is now live at [www.childsafeguardingelc.ie](http://www.childsafeguardingelc.ie)

Services can also refer to further information and info blasts which available on <https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/> and <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/>

**HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR SERVICES UNIQUE CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

All services are asked *to ensure that your safeguarding statement is up to date* and that all staff are familiar with their own role and responsibilities within the service should Child Protection or Welfare concerns arise. All risks should be identified and the policies that are named to mitigate those risks should be specific to your own unique service. I attach the Child Safeguarding Statement Template and accompanying Information Sheet, this resource has been developed in conjunction with the Tusla Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit and will help your service develop a strong, robust Child Safeguarding Statement that is individual and unique to your own service. The template and accompanying information sheet outlines the exact steps that services are required to follow to develop their Child Safeguarding Statement. This Template has been taken and updated from the publication 'Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement; A Guide for Early Years Services in Ireland' and can be found at <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/publications-and-forms/>

A Child Safeguarding Statement is a written statement that specifies the service being provided and the principles and procedures to be observed in order to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of the service is safe from harm. Upon completion, the Child Safeguarding Statement must be shared with all staff members, displayed in a prominent place in the service and made available to parents and guardians, Tusla and members of the public upon request. Further information can be found here <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/organisations/what-is-a-child-safeguarding-statement/>

If Tusla request a service to resubmit their safeguarding statement, the turnaround time for resubmission of amended child safeguarding statements to the Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit is extended to 10 days during Covid 19, however this may delay registration, therefore the sooner services can return their amended safeguarding statements if requested the quicker they can be processed by Tusla. I enclose some parent's leaflets on Children First in ELC services, these can also be downloaded from <https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Parents-Leafelet-6ppDL-English-b-Oct-20.pdf>. If you or any member of staff in your service has any further queries in relation to any aspect of child safeguarding or would like support updating your safeguarding statement, please contact me or your development officer within our team here at Roscommon County Childcare Committee. We will support you to review and update your safeguarding statement to meet current regulations.

On another note myself and the team here want to acknowledge all the work that your service has accomplished over what has been a challenging time and wish you, your teams, children and families good health and wellbeing, remember we are only a call away for support at local county level.

Kind Regards, *Irene Cafferky*

County Childcare Coordinator/Manager & National Child Safeguarding Programme; Early Learning Trainer  
Roscommon County Childcare Committee