

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

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| **Statement developed by**   * Catherine McDonald (Policy and Advocacy Lead) * Grace Kelly Hartnett (CEO) * Heather Colson Osborne (Designated Officer) * Deirdre Leech (Deafblind Specialist Consultant) | | May 2018 |
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| **Authorised by:** Grace Kelly Hartnett (CEO) | | |

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**CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

**1. Name of service and activities provided**

The Anne Sullivan Centre (ASC) is a not for profit organisation providing support and services to individuals who are deafblind in Ireland. The ASC provides residential, day, respite and information supports to adults who are deafblind and also provides advocacy and outreach services to both adults and children. The ASC organisational structure is depicted in Figure 1 below:

Flow chart diagram of organisational structure:  ASC Board>Person in Charge>Residential Services Manager>Supervisors/Team Leaders>Social Care Workers and RSWs>Service volunteers.
 Quality Improvement and Service development Manager>Volunteer co ordinator>Volunteers>Finance & Administration >Human Resources .
MDT
, SmartArt diagram

Figure 1: ASC Organisational and management structure.

**2. Commitment to safeguard children from harm**

* The ASC is committed to safeguarding the children availing of our services and to providing a safe environment in which they can learn and develop.
* The ASC believes that the welfare of the children availing of our service is paramount. We are committed to child-centred practice in all our work with children.
* We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
* Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Tusla Children First - Child Safeguarding Guide 2017, and the Children First Act 2015.
* Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All board members, staff, volunteers and students must abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy.
* We will review our child safeguarding statement and accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures every 2 years or sooner if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.
* There are Designated Officers in place to which suspicions or allegations of abuse can be reported. Please see Table 1 below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Designated Officer 1**  Edel Coll  ecoll@annesullivancentre.ie | **Designated Officer 2**  Sorcha Nallen  [snallen@annesullivancentre.ie](mailto:snallen@annesullivancentre.ie)  Phone: 087 7462472 | **Designated Officer 3**  **Karen Coleman**  [kacoleman@gmail.com](mailto:kacoleman@gmail.com)  Phone: 086 3324612 |

**Table 1: Designated Officers in the ASC to which allegations or concerns of abuse can be reported.**

**3. Risk Assessment**

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the ASC has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while participating in service activities. A summary of the areas covered in the risk assessment meeting can be found in Appendix 1. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is summarised in Table 2 below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Risk Identified** | **Policy/Procedure in place to manage the risk** |
| One to One teaching | ASC Child Protection Policy  ASC Charter of Rights  ASC Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy  ASC Policies and Procedures on Communicating with  children and adults who are deafblind.  ASC Speak up/Protected Disclosures Policy  ASC Recruitment and Selection Policy  ASC Positive Behaviour Support Policy  ASC Lone Working Policy  ASC Code of conduct  HSE Trust in Care Policy |
| Outdoor activities | In addition to what has already been listed:  ASC Safety Statement  ASC Risk Management Policy |
| Outings | In addition to what has already been listed:  ASC Policies and Procedures on Missing Persons |
| Management of challenging behaviour | As above |
| Administration of first aid | In addition to what has already been listed above  ASC Staff Training and Development Policy |
| Use of information and communication  technology | In addition to what has already been listed above  ASC Email Policy  ASC Internet Policy  ASC Social Media Policy |
| Social events | As above |
| Individual records | In addition to what has already been listed above:  ASC Confidentiality Policy  ASC Record Management and Data Protection Policy |

Table 2: Risk and risk management regarding child protection

**4. Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures**

As required by the Children First Act, 2015 and the Children First National Guidance for Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the following safeguarding policies/procedures/measures are in place

* Designated Officers have been appointed
* Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedures
* Confidentiality Policy
* Policy provides information on dealing with allegations of abuse or neglect against employees
* Procedure for managing data and records
* Recruitment Policy
* Garda Vetting Policy
* Code of Behaviour
* Induction Policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures)
* Policy on communicating with children and adults who are deafblind
* All staff asked to complete the HSE Land eLearning module – *Introduction to Children First* and relevant staff have attended Children First Child Protection Training.
* Staff have access to regular Supervision and Support in line with the ASC policy.
* Comments, Complaints & Complaints Policy
* ASC Adverse Events and Incident Management Policy
* Social Media Management Policy

**Note:** *The above is not intended as an exhaustive list.*

**5. Mandated Person**

A mandated person under Ireland's [Children First Act 2015](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=f6511093bb828960&cs=0&q=Children+First+Act+2015&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiti-yqvMuPAxVEWUEAHYyxOTMQxccNegQIAhAB&mstk=AUtExfAXhfxFDX4xxoNUmxPPW3vqsNtxJuFN7JB8n-99nzW1IZ5SYJHyQlZOst7Aj5LONxOoF3-sYh5k4u1WKYggh6xBMIOgKCBb4DAq12Z3MIJ8d5cs3UxPPzIO5f_E3J2JMYA&csui=3) is a person with a legal obligation to report concerns of child abuse or harm to the Tusla - Child and Family Agency and to assist Tusla, when requested, in assessing these concerns. The function is to safeguard children by ensuring that knowledge or reasonable suspicion of harm is reported to the authorities, thereby protecting children from further harm.

**5.1 Who is a mandated person**

The [Children First Act 2015](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=f6511093bb828960&cs=0&q=Children+First+Act+2015&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiti-yqvMuPAxVEWUEAHYyxOTMQxccNegQIIxAB&mstk=AUtExfAXhfxFDX4xxoNUmxPPW3vqsNtxJuFN7JB8n-99nzW1IZ5SYJHyQlZOst7Aj5LONxOoF3-sYh5k4u1WKYggh6xBMIOgKCBb4DAq12Z3MIJ8d5cs3UxPPzIO5f_E3J2JMYA&csui=3) lists specific groups of people as mandated persons. Many of these roles are in professional settings. The ASC employs a number of Social Care Workers who are registered under CORU and therefore have a legal obligation to report safeguarding concerns to Tusla. The list of social care workers is available on our rostering system.

**5.2 Relevant person**

A Relevant Person is a designated individual within a "relevant service" (an organization working with children) who serves as the first point of contact for the [Child Safeguarding Statement](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=f6511093bb828960&cs=0&q=Child+Safeguarding+Statement&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjz6tzyvsuPAxVmR0EAHQl8Cj4QxccNegQIBhAC&mstk=AUtExfBYT32ASwYHIQW2OHlugXvBMTE0anISPNMvannFmD9b4A61iNJEvayuybiYCmRRlwCigRM1-tkawqCugemsbZl1sIUEuaetsCrQ9TeMh0_njR6UkxGxWwRIIsI3OCONKYQ&csui=3) (CSS). This person's contact details are listed on the CSS, and they provide information about the organization's child safeguarding procedures to children, parents, and the public, ensuring accessibility and accountability for safeguarding efforts. The relevant person in the Anne Sullivan Centre is Sorcha Nallen, Designated officer, contact details can be found above.

**6. Implementation and Review**

* We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.
* This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
* This statement is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla or HIQA if requested.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Service Provider’s name and contact details:**

**Appendix 1: Child Protection Risk Assessment**

**Date of risk assessment: 23-04-18**

**Risk assessment review in Sept 2025**

**Present:** Deirdre Leech (Deafblind Specialist Consultant), Heather Colson Osborne (Designated Officer, Catherine McDonald (Policy & Advocacy Lead, Grace Kelly Hartnett (CEO)

At this risk assessment meeting, those present listed the activities that the organisation engages in with children, identified the risk of harm in respect of the activities outlined above and identified the procedures in place to address the risks of the harm identified.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Risk**  **identified** | **Comments** |
| One to one teaching | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |
| Outdoor activities | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |
| Outings | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |
| Trips involving overnight stay | No | Not currently offered to children by ASC |
| Use of toilet/intimate care | No | Outreach workers do not provide intimate care  supports |
| Management of challenging  behaviour | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |
| Administration of First Aid | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |
| Administration of medication | No | Outreach workers do not administer  medication |
| Use of ICT | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |
| Use of video/photography | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |
| Social events | Yes | Identified list of policies and procedures to address the risk |

**Child Safeguarding Statement - Secondary Risk Assessment**

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| --- | --- |
| **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment** | |
| Name of Service | The Anne Sullivan Centre |
| Address of service | The Anne Sullivan Centre, Brewery Road, Stillorgan, Dublin 18, A94Y763 |
| Location (List all locations where the service is provided) | As above |
| Name of Person responsible for the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment | Mark Harding PIC |
| Names of those consulted with in completing the risk assessment, if applicable | Sorcha Nallen DO |
| Details of where the CSS will be displayed and how it will be furnished to all staff | Safeguarding folder  Sharepoint |
| Completed By:Mark Harding  Date:5/9/2025  Date for Review: 5/9/2026  (This risk assessment should be reviewed on an ongoing basis, and updated as required) | |

**Risk Assessment**

It is the objective of the HSE to keep children safe from harm while availing of/attending HSE services. This risk assessment will focus on assessing the risk of harm to a child while availing of the service.

The legal definition of **harm** used for the purpose of this risk assessment is as follows:

“harm means in relation to a child –

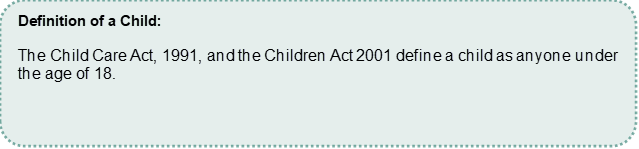
1. assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health,

development or welfare, or

1. sexual abuse of the child,

whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise.”

(Children First Act 2015, S.2 Definitions)



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| **Service Details** |
| **Description of the service provided:** |
| 24 hour HIQA designated residential service.  Day services, Mon - Friday (9-3:30)  Outreach service.  The day and residential services provide supports to adults who are deafblind.  The outreach service provides supports to those who are deafblind across the lifespan. |

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| **List of activities provided:**  Provide a detailed list here of all of the activities that staff engage in when delivering this service. Where services are being provided to children and/or adults this should include activities like home visits, office visits, one-to-one contact, group work, overnight trips away, online and telephone contact, use of technology and applications, where applicable.  It is important to refer to this list of activities when considering each of the risks below. |
| Home Visits   * 1. supports   Transport  Intimate care support  Person Centered Planning  Use of technology such as Social Media  Volunteer supports  Student placements  Family visits to the service  MDT supports  Group activities  Community based activities. |

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| **Describe the profile of your service users**:  Think about the adults and/or children who avail of your service. Consider any additional vulnerabilities or factors that might be relevant to child safeguarding, such as age of the child, or older children attending services unaccompanied. Other vulnerabilities or factors that can relate to both children and adults could be issues related to disability, mental health, domestic abuse, substance misuse, addiction, communication. Further information about circumstances that can make children more vulnerable to harm is available in Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, pp11-12 |
| The people who attend the service are classified as deafblind and most have an intellectual disability. There are individual medical, including physical and psychiatric diagnoses which make those attending the service vulnerable to harm. |

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| **Note the points of contact staff have with children**  It is also important to also think about contact with adults; particularly those who may be parents or carers and present with issues that may impact on children  Consider methods of service delivery – home visits, office visits, one to one sessions, group work, online contact, telephone contact, residential care. If you work with adults you may have contact with children on home visits, children may be visiting adults in your service, or accompanying adults who are attending appointments.  Consider shared spaces in your building – for example, reception and waiting areas. |
| Primarily, the contact which staff have with children are at organisational events such as the annual BBQ, Christmas event and the family fun day. Children are brought to the service by their parents and are under their supervision. There are occasions where staff may have contact with children as part of facilitating service users home visits. The children concerned in this case are under the supervision of their parents.  Our outreach department have more contact with children the those in the residential and day service for example through conducting outreach visits in the homes of children under the supervision of their parents. |

**Summary of Identified Risks**

The list below sets out the overarching risks categories that are included in the HSE Child Safeguarding Statement template.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Risk 1** | Risk of harm to a child by a staff member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities |
| **Risk 2** | Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities |
| **Risk 3** | Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member |
| **Risk 4** | Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child |
| **Risk 5** | Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies in HSE services |
| **Risk 6** | Risk 6 - Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact). |

The procedures that are required to be specified in the Child Safeguarding Statement under

Section 11(3) of the Children First Act 2015 are listed at the end of the document.

**Note for HSE services** – Any reference to staff/all staff includes students and volunteers.

# **Risk One**

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| **Risk 1 - Risk or harm to a child by a staff member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities** | |
| **Risk Description** | There is a risk of harm to a child due to a staff member, volunteer or student physically, emotionally, or sexually abusing or neglecting a child, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare. |
| **What could happen?** | A child could be abused or neglected by a staff member, volunteer or student, while availing of services. This could happen through face to face contact with a child, or through the use of information technology. |
| **How could it happen?** | A staff member could   * arrange to meet with a child alone, within their working hours, for the purpose of abusing them * arrange to meet with a child, outside of working hours, for the purpose of abusing them * contact a child, by phone or through online platforms, for the purpose of grooming with the intent to abuse * neglect a child in their care, either wilfully or accidentally, resulting in that child being harmed * lose control and cause physical harm to a child.   A child could be harmed though the unauthorised taking and/or use of digital imagery by a staff member– for example, photographs and videos being shared without consent, modified or misused out of context, a vulnerable child being identified for the purpose of grooming and abuse |
| **Why might it happen?** | This might happen because:   * a staff member deliberately engages in this behaviour * of inappropriate levels of supervision – for example child/adult ratios * of inappropriate levels of support or clinical supervision * of staff members not adhering to policy and procedures |
| **What might the impact be?** | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare |
| **Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?** | HR  All staff  Line Managers  Service Managers  CEO |
| **Controls** | * ASC child protection and Welfare Policy * ASC [Recruitment and Selection Procedures](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/recruitment-process/) * [HSE Trust in Care Policy](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hrppg/trust-in-care.html) * [Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/dept-of-health-a-code-of-conduct-for-health-and-social-service-providers.pdf) * ASC [Protected Disclosures Procedures](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/protected-disclosures-procedures-for-the-receipt-and-management-of-protected-disclosures-in-the-hse-january-2023/) * ASC [Consent Policy](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/hse-national-consent-policy/) * ASC Disciplinary Policy * [HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/pp/ict/) * ASC phone use policy * ASC Safeguarding Policy * ASC Lone working Policy * ASC Child Protection Policy * Internal Safeguarding training * Notification to all staff of DOs in service * Safeguarding information on display throughout service including; DOs contact info, confidential recipient info |
|  |
| **Any further action required?** | N/A |

# **Risk Two**

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| --- | --- |
| **Risk 2 – Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities** | |
| **Risk Description** | There is a risk of harm to a child due to another service user (adult or child), visitor or a member of the public, physically, emotionally, or sexually abusing or neglecting a child, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare. |
| **What could happen?** | A child could be abused or neglected by a service user or a visitor while availing of or attending the ASC for an event or visit |
| **How could it happen?** | A child could be harmed by another service user, visitor or member of the public while availing of services  This could be:   * in a shared space * because parents/guardians may not be aware that it is their responsibility to supervise their children at all times * through contact with another service user or member of the public in an online forum. * as a result of the unauthorised taking and/or use of digital imagery, for example, photographs and videos being taken and shared without consent, modified or misused out of context, a vulnerable child being identified for the purpose of grooming and abuse |
| **Why might it happen?** | This might happen because:   * a service user, visitor or member of the public wants to harm a child * there are inadequate levels of supervision * service users, visitors or members of the public can have diminished capacity * staff do not recognise signs and symptoms of abuse |
| **What might the impact be?** | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare |
| **Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?** | All staff  Line Managers  Service Managers  CEO |
| **Controls** | * ASC Visitors Policy * ASC Consent Policy * ASC Digital media policy * ASC Child protection policy |
| **Any further action required?** | N/A |

# **Risk Three**

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| **Risk 3 – Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member** | |
| **Risk Description** | There is a risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare. |
| **What could happen?** | A child could remain at risk or could continue to experience abuse or neglect. |
| **How could it happen?** | A staff member may not:   * recognise and/or report a disclosure of child abuse * recognise an admission or indication by an adult, or by a child, of abuse they have committed * recognise and/or report the signs and indicators of abuse or neglect * consider child safeguarding issues when working with adult service users * recognise and report a concern/risk to a child (identified or not) arising from an adult retrospective disclosure of child abuse * follow the HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy by reporting concerns to Tusla - Child and Family Agency, when they have reasonable grounds for concern |
| **Why might it happen?** | Because a staff member:   * does not complete mandatory HSE training programme An Introduction to Children First * is not aware of their roles and responsibilities * does not adhere to Children First Guidance and the ASC Child Protection Policy and reporting procedure * is not aware of the protections under law for people who report reasonably and in good faith * chooses not to report and knowingly fails to discharge their duty of care |
| **What might the impact be?** | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare. |
| **Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?** | HR  All staff  Line Managers  Service Managers  HSE Children First National Office  ASC Senior Leadership Team |
| **Controls** | * ASC child protection and Welfare Policy * ASC [Recruitment and Selection Procedures](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/recruitment-process/) * [HSE Trust in Care Policy](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hrppg/trust-in-care.html) * [Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/dept-of-health-a-code-of-conduct-for-health-and-social-service-providers.pdf) * ASC [Protected Disclosures Procedures](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/protected-disclosures-procedures-for-the-receipt-and-management-of-protected-disclosures-in-the-hse-january-2023/) * ASC [Consent Policy](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/hse-national-consent-policy/) * ASC Disciplinary Policy * [HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/pp/ict/) * ASC phone use policy * ASC Safeguarding Policy * ASC Lone working Policy * ASC Child Protection Policy * Internal Safeguarding training * Notification to all staff of DOs in service * Safeguarding information on display throughout service including; DOs contact info, confidential recipient info |
| **Any further action required?** | No |

# **Risk Four**

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| **Risk 4 – Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child** | |
| **Risk Description** | There is a risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child, resulting in the child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare. |
| **What could happen?** | A child could remain at risk, or could continue to experience abuse or neglect. |
| **How could it happen?** | This could happen because:   * a child does not recognise what is happening to them as abuse or neglect * A child is unable to report the abuse because of their diagnosis of intellectual disability and/or communication needs * a child is not aware that they can speak to someone in the service about what is happening to them |
| **Why might it happen?** | * A child is not provided with or aware of information about their rights. * Relevant information is not presented in a child friendly way. * Children might not have appropriate or safe opportunities to disclose/report abuse or neglect. * Children do not have a way of communicating this because of their disability |
| **What might the impact be?** | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare |
| **Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?** | All staff  Line Managers  Service Managers  HSE Children First National Office  ASC Senior leadership team  Volunteers |
| **Controls** |  |
| * ASC child protection and Welfare Policy * ASC [Recruitment and Selection Procedures](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/recruitment-process/) * [HSE Trust in Care Policy](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hrppg/trust-in-care.html) * [Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/dept-of-health-a-code-of-conduct-for-health-and-social-service-providers.pdf) * ASC [Protected Disclosures Procedures](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/protected-disclosures-procedures-for-the-receipt-and-management-of-protected-disclosures-in-the-hse-january-2023/) * ASC [Consent Policy](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/hse-national-consent-policy/) * ASC Disciplinary Policy * [HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/pp/ict/) * ASC phone use policy * ASC Safeguarding Policy * ASC Lone working Policy * ASC Child Protection Policy * Internal Safeguarding training * Notification to all staff of DOs in service * Safeguarding information on display throughout service including; DOs contact info, confidential recipient info |
| **Any further action required?** |  |

# **Risk Five**

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| **Risk 5 – Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First**  **Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies** | |
| **Risk Description** | There is a risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies, resulting in a child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare. |
| **What could happen?** | A child could be at risk of abuse or neglect if child safeguarding measures are not in place in the service and/or staff are not implementing existing measures. |
| **How could it happen?** | This could happen if   * a service fails to undertake a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and develop a Child Safeguarding Statement * a service fails to implement the requirements of the ASC Child Protection and Welfare Policy * Children First Governance Structures are not implemented or are ineffective * a service does not ensure that all staff complete the mandatory training An Introduction to Children First * staff who are Mandated Persons are not aware of their legal responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015 |
| **Why might it happen?** | It might happen because the service   * may not be aware of their responsibilities under Children First * may not be aware of their obligations under the ASC Child Protection and Welfare Policy * may not have sufficient staffing capacity to implement Children First requirements. * does not check or monitor their compliance with their requirements under Children First |
| **What might the impact be?** | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare. |
| **Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?** | All staff  Line Managers  Service Managers  HSE Children First National Office  ASC Senior Leadership Team |
| **Controls** | * ASC child protection and Welfare Policy * ASC [Recruitment and Selection Procedures](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/recruitment-process/) * [HSE Trust in Care Policy](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hrppg/trust-in-care.html) * [Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/dept-of-health-a-code-of-conduct-for-health-and-social-service-providers.pdf) * ASC [Protected Disclosures Procedures](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/protected-disclosures-procedures-for-the-receipt-and-management-of-protected-disclosures-in-the-hse-january-2023/) * ASC [Consent Policy](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/hse-national-consent-policy/) * ASC Disciplinary Policy * [HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/pp/ict/) * ASC phone use policy * ASC Safeguarding Policy * ASC Lone working Policy * ASC Child Protection Policy * Internal Safeguarding training * Notification to all staff of DOs in service * Safeguarding information on display throughout service including; DOs contact info, confidential recipient info |
|  |
| **Any further action required?** |  |

# **Risk Six**

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| **Risk 6 -** **Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact).** | |
| **Risk Description** | There is a risk of harm to a child when using ICT while attending an ASC/ASF service (includes social media, gaming, web access and electronic contact) resulting in a child experiencing harm that seriously affects their health, development or welfare. |
| **What could happen?** | * A child could be groomed for the purpose of exploitation through online platforms. * A child could be exposed to inappropriate content. * A child could be encouraged to engage in self-harming behaviours. |
| **How could it happen?** | This could happen if a service:   * provides internet access with unfiltered access to online content. * allows a child to use ASC ICT equipment or personal devices and does not support or encourage children to develop safe and responsible online behaviours. |
| **Why might it happen?** | This might happen because:   * a service fails to implement ASC policies and procedures. * children have ASC internet access, and/or use of ASC devices and safe use is not considered or supported. * staff don’t have awareness about online safety * the service has insufficient internet filters. |
| **What might the impact be?** | Harm to a child which seriously affects the child’s health, development or welfare |
| **Who, within the service and/or organisation, can and does influence this risk?** | All staff  Line Managers  Service Managers  HSE Children First National Office  ASC Senior Leadership Team  Local Children First Operational Steering Committees  ASC Internal Audit |
| **Controls** | * ASC child protection and Welfare Policy * ASC [Recruitment and Selection Procedures](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/recruitment-process/) * [HSE Trust in Care Policy](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hrppg/trust-in-care.html) * [Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/dept-of-health-a-code-of-conduct-for-health-and-social-service-providers.pdf) * ASC [Protected Disclosures Procedures](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/protected-disclosures-procedures-for-the-receipt-and-management-of-protected-disclosures-in-the-hse-january-2023/) * ASC [Consent Policy](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/hse-national-consent-policy/) * ASC Disciplinary Policy * ASC phone use policy * ASC Safeguarding Policy * ASC Lone working Policy * ASC Child Protection Policy * Internal Safeguarding training * Notification to all staff of DOs in service * Safeguarding information on display throughout service including; DOs contact info, confidential recipient info |
| **Any further action required?** |  |