



1.1 Child Protection Policy

Current Policy Date:	January 2024	Produced By:	Social Care, Pathways and Nursing Policy Group
Next Review Date:	January 2026	Responsible Person:	James Forbes
Version:	5		

SCOPE: all staff and volunteers

ChildVision is committed to protecting the rights of children and young adults, particularly those with whom ChildVision works. A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18, who is not, or has never been, married. Although this policy is entitled 'Child Protection' it must also be read to encompass general principles which also apply to those young people availing of services in or from ChildVision who have attained the legal age of majority but who, by virtue of a cognitive, developmental or other life circumstance, may be considered vulnerable. In respect of young vulnerable adults Child Vision's policy on Protecting Vulnerable Adults is also applicable. This Policy should also be read in conjunction with ChildVision's suite of Child Protection policies

It is the intention of ChildVision to protect the rights of children and young adults by ensuring their safety and wellbeing while they are using ChildVision's services. A culture of listening to young people and a culture of respect and vigilance are central to how we do our work, underpinned by ensuring appropriate reporting procedures are in place to deal with complaints and allegations.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees of ChildVision and to all those volunteers, placement students, contractors, and others who might find themselves working on the campus or any of its houses in the community or taking part in external activities (within or outside of the Republic of Ireland). It is the responsibility of line managers to bring the existence of this policy to the notice of such people.

All staff members, volunteers, placement students, contractors and others working on the ChildVision campus or any of its houses in the community or external activities will be required to provide the appropriate Garda vetting documentation and to sign a declaration that they have read this policy and agree to be bound by it. Signed declarations will be stored on file in the HR department. Visitors to the Centre or any of its constituent parts or external activities are also required to adhere to this policy and in so far as it is reasonably practicable to bring its main provisions to visitors notice, this will be done by the relevant manager. However, if it is intended that such visitors will be accompanied by staff for the duration of their visit to ChildVision or its external activities, this obviates the need for them to be fully acquainted with the policy or to sign the declaration. The displaying of ChildVision's Child Safeguarding Statement at reception and at other public access points is intended to notify visitors of its provisions.

General Statement

This policy (and the accompanying procedures) has been developed in line with *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017), *Our Duty to Care* (Dept. of Health and Children, 2001) and the Children First Act 2015. A copy of this policy (and the accompanying procedures) has been lodged with the HSE, North East (HQ, located in Ballymun) and it is available on the ChildVision website at www.childvision.ie.

ChildVision also has a Child Safeguarding Statement as required by the Children First Act 2015. This statement is publicly displayed, has been furnished to all Staff and is publicly available. In addition a copy of the Statement has been lodged with Tusla's Registration and Enforcement Office.

Designated Person

The role of the Designated Person for Child Protection is:

- to receive and evaluate all Child Protection concerns
- to maintain a file on each Child Protection issue raised
- to contact the Child and Family Agency (TUSLA) and An Garda Síochána as necessary where objectively serious concern is deemed to exist
- to maintain on-going links with the Child and Family Agency (TUSLA) and An Garda Síochána and to ensure all relevant information is passed to them
- to advise the Board, CEO and Management Team of ChildVision on all matters relating to good Child Protection practice, including general, non-specific,

information on the nature of all complaints or allegations made and their on-going status

- to ensure and monitor the provision and adequacy of Child Protection training to all ChildVision staff and volunteers.

The Designated Person will maintain his/her training and awareness of Child Protection issues and ensure he/she is updated on pertinent developments.

The Designated Person for ChildVision is:

- James Forbes, Director of Social Care

James is available at 01- 8373635

The Co-Designated Person is:

- Sinéad Fitzpatrick, Deputy CEO

Sinéad is available at 01-8373635

The Designated Person is the first person to whom a concern in respect of a Child Protection issue should be addressed. In the absence of the Designated Person, due to illness or annual leave, the Co-Designated Person will be available.

In cases where it may be deemed inappropriate for the Designated Person to investigate a Child Protection concern, the role of Designated Person will be taken on by the co-designated person, supported by the CEO.

Child Safeguarding Statement

In line with its statutory duty under S11 of the Children First Act 2015 ChildVision has prepared and published a Child Safeguarding Statement. This Statement provides an overview of the services ChildVision provides to children and the potential risks which might arise in respect of these services.

This Statement will be reviewed at intervals of not less than 24 months.



Mandated Persons

In line with its statutory duty under the Children First Act 2015 ChildVision maintains a list of Mandated Persons working in ChildVision. A mandated person is a person who by virtue of their contact with children and/or families and their qualification, training and/or employment are in a key position to protect children from abuse. A mandated person has a legal duty to report concerns which reach a certain threshold to Tusla and, thereafter, if required, to cooperate in any assessment. A detailed account of the responsibilities of mandated persons and the processes by which mandated persons are deemed compliant with the legislation is found in Chapter 3 of Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and a list of mandated persons is available in Schedule 2 of the Children First Act 2015.

All mandated persons in ChildVision are required to complete the “Mandated Person e-learning” training as provided by TUSLA. All other non-mandated frontline staff, such as Pathways staff, are advised to complete the training.