

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

APRIL 2018

Background

The Children First Act 2015 requires organisations that are providers of ‘relevant services’ to publish a Child Safeguarding Statement (Schedule 1 of the Act provides a list of work or activities that constitute a ‘relevant service’).

This Statement details the relevant services provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the principles and procedures in place to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of these services is safe from harm. The Statement will be reviewed every two years or sooner if there has been a material change in any of the services to which it refers.

Relevant Services provided by TII

In preparing this Child Safeguarding Statement, TII undertook a review of all services provided to identify those that fall under the definition of a relevant service as defined by the Children First Act 2015.

One service was identified, and a risk assessment was undertaken. This statement details the nature of the service, the principles and procedures in place to safeguard children from harm while availing of the service and the risk assessment.

The service identified was:

1. Transition Year / Young Persons Placement Programme

Transition Year / Young Persons Placement Programme

TII provides a placement programme for Transition Year secondary school students and other ¹young persons on request. This service falls under the relevant service outlined in the Children First Act 2015, Schedule 1, 5(a):

Any work or activity which consists of the provision of educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children.

Principles in place to safeguard children from harm

TII is committed to protecting and facilitating the full participation of young people on work experience. It aims to create a safe environment for young people on work experience, and is committed to ensuring their safety and welfare at all times in accordance with the following documents:

- Children First Act 2015
- Children First - National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017)
- Our Duty to Care - The Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People (Department of Health and Children, 2002).

¹ young persons refers to those who are under 18 and fall within the definition of a child

Obligations to safeguard children from harm

As the placement of Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons in TII is considered to be a relevant service to children under the Act the following obligations attach:

- a) To keep the child safe from harm while receiving the service [i.e. on the placement];
- b) To assess the risks; and
- c) To address those risks, as required by the Act, in TII's Child Safeguarding Statement.

Risk Assessment

TII have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm² to a child while availing of this service. The risks identified are listed below, along with procedures in place for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Procedures to mitigate Risks
Risk of harm to the young person in the course of their placement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) A relevant member of the department to which the Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons are assigned will have completed the Children First eLearning training provided by TUSLA. ii) HR, in advance of the placement, will distribute the TII Child Safeguarding Statement to all staff in the relevant department and seek acknowledgement of receipt of same; iii) All guidance on the appropriate reporting to TUSLA of any and all disclosures by Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons to TII staff will be reported in accordance with TUSLA's child first training and/or in accordance with TUSLA's guidelines as outlined in their guide to reporting (link below). iv) Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons will not be left unsupervised v) Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons will be asked to provide emergency contact details.

² Harm is defined in the Children First Act as follows: "harm" means, in relation to a child— (a) 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 (b) 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.

<p>That the nature of the work in the course of their placement may be inappropriate and potentially harmful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) In determining placements of Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons, care will be taken to avoid placing students in units where exposure to the content of the work may be inappropriate for children. Where they are required to go 'on site' i.e. an area which is outside of normal public access, an individual risk assessment will be carried out by TII Health & Safety and Safe Pass training arranged at the expense of TII where required. ii) Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons are not to be allowed in fleet vehicles or in any staff member's personal vehicle. Any work placement related travel in the duration of their placement will be undertaken via public transport and/or other publicly accessible routes. iii) Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons will never work more than [37 hours] a week and will receive an hour lunch break each day. iv) Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons will not be invited to any work related social events outside of working hours and/or off TII property.
<p>Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) At least one relevant member of the department to which the Transition Year secondary school student or other young person is assigned will have completed the Children First eLearning training provided by TUSLA. ii) HR, in advance of the placement, will distribute the TII Child Safeguarding Statement to all staff in the relevant department and seek acknowledgement of receipt of same; iii) All guidance on the appropriate reporting to TUSLA of any and all disclosures by Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons to TII staff will be reported in accordance with TUSLA's child first training and/or in accordance with TUSLA's guidelines as outlined in their guide to reporting (link below). iv) Transition Year secondary school students and other young persons will be asked to provide emergency contact details.

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 support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

The procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA as outlined by TUSLA in their guide to reporting which can be downloaded here:

http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guide_to_Reporters_Guide_A4_v3.pdf

Provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information to all staff via the provision of TUSLA's online child first training at <http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme>

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. TII 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 on in March 2020, or sooner if there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For further information or queries, please contact Orla Mulqueen, the Relevant Person for TII under the Children First Act 2015, Orla.Mulqueen@tii.ie

Signed:

