



# Child Safeguarding Statement



## National Ambulance Service

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) provides pre-hospital care services to children and across the country. The NAS directly employs approximately over 1,900 staff who respond to a variety of settings and locations in which they may become aware of child safeguarding issues. The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for the HSE and NAS. Every NAS staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of and/or attending our service is safe and protected from harm. NAS policies and procedures have been developed to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise, and to manage it safely where it does. The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all NAS staff (employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any other person) performing any role of function in, or on behalf of this service.

### Risk Assessments which inform our processes and policies:

1	Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pre-employment checks</li> <li>• Professional standards for all Pre-Hospital care providers – EMTs, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics.</li> <li>• Professional registration for all Pre-Hospital care providers.</li> <li>• Code of behaviour for staff</li> <li>•Trust in care policy</li> <li>•HSE Child protection &amp; welfare policy</li> <li>•PPPGs regarding safe practice and service delivery</li> <li>•HSE National Consent Policy</li> </ul>
2	Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Supervision/accompaniment/admission/public access policies as relevant to service area</li> <li>•Staff supervision &amp; training</li> <li>•Reporting Procedures</li> </ul>
3	Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act and National Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Children First Governance Structure</li> <li>•HSE Controls Assurance Process</li> <li>•Children’s First Checklist</li> <li>•Compliance monitoring and auditing</li> </ul>
4	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Staff information, supervision and training.</li> <li>•Reporting procedure</li> <li>•Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting</li> <li>•"An introduction to children first" mandatory eLearning for all NAS staff regardless of function.</li> <li>•Consultation / experience surveying of service users &amp; your service your say.</li> </ul>

Where necessary, risks are managed in line with the HSE Integrated Risk Management Policy. Queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment(s) carried out by this service for the purpose of developing this Child Safeguarding Statement should be directed to the named relevant person.

### Procedures - (All HSE National PPPGs are available at [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)).

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed with due regard to, and in accordance with, the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), HSE Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Guidance issued by Tusla – Child and Family Agency. The following HSE policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of this HSE service:

- Integrated Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm;
- HSE Incident Management Framework 2020 to inform HSE management of any incident where a child has been harmed while availing of the service;
- Trust in Care Policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member;
- Recruitment policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are suitable to work with children (includes Garda Clearance of New Employees Policy 2007);
- "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all HSE staff;
- HSE Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedure (HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy 2019);
- HSE National I.T. Policies & Standards to ensure online safety (includes Electronic Communications Policy 2019 and Internet Content Filter Standard 2011);
- HSE Code of Standards and Behavior 2009.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons within NAS which is the list of all EMT's, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics.
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person (See named person below)

### Governance

National Ambulance Service Operations Managers have responsibility for ensuring Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements are completed under their designated areas of responsibility and for the support and supervision of staff in compliance. Governance is supported through the HSE Children First Governance Structures.

### Implementation

All Service Managers are responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement are in place and operating effectively.

### Relevant Person

**Ciaran McCullagh, National Quality and Patient Safety Manager NAS. [Ciaran.mccullagh@hse.ie](mailto:Ciaran.mccullagh@hse.ie) 01 4631621**

Signed: Insert RM  
Director National Ambulance Service

