

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

This Child Safeguarding Statement is in compliance with the requirements of the

Children First Act 2015 and of **Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017**.

The statement sets out the services being provided by and the principles and procedures that are in place to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child/young person availing of, or in contact with, Aiséirí services is safe from abuse or harm.

This statement includes an assessment of risk of “harm” to a child/young person while residing in or in contact with Aiséirí services. Procedures to manage and mitigate such risks are also specified.

NAME OF SERVICE BEING PROVIDED

Aiséirí provides community, residential and detox services to help young people, adults and families overcome addiction and lead meaningful lives in the community. Additional details in respect of Aislínn, adolescent residential centre are available in the introduction of the Safeguarding policy and procedures 2025.

NATURE OF SERVICE

Aiséirí has 2 residential adult centres located in Cahir, Co. Tipperary and Roxborough, Co. Wexford. Aislínn, is our adolescent residential centre, in Ballyraggett, Co. Kilkenny.

Aiseiri also provides secondary care and supportive housing in Waterford City.

Aiseiri employs (approx.) 127 staff members and 80 volunteers.

The primary activity of the volunteers is to act as facilitators for groups attending the aftercare programme.

PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND KEEP THEM SAFE FROM HARM

Aiséirí is committed to the following principles to keep children safe from harm:

- That the promotion of the welfare, health and safety of children / young people is paramount and is everyone’s responsibility.
- That any identified welfare or protection concern of a child/young person that becomes known to Aiséirí staff or volunteers will be managed in a safe manner by the company.
- That safe management procedures are in place for all staff, volunteers and students, covering in particular; recruitment, Garda vetting and a person’s suitability to work with children and vulnerable persons.
- That Aiséirí has a procedure in place to maintain a list of all staff who are mandated persons.
- That a specific safeguarding children training plan is in place to ensure that all staff and volunteers are aware of their role in keeping children/young people safe and to raise organisational awareness of this issue.
- That a specific safeguarding children communications plan is in place to ensure that staff, service users, volunteers, partners and the general public are aware of the policy and procedures in place to safeguard children/young people engaged with Aiséirí.
- That Aiséirí has developed and is maintaining clear and secure record keeping procedures in respect of child protection and welfare concerns. Such records are held by the Designated Liaison Person.

RELEVANT PERSON

The relevant person for any enquiries in respect of the child safeguarding statement is **Sara Cassidy, Head of Clinical Service**.

This person is also the Designated Liaison Person for Children First.

NAMED PERSON

Children First national guidance states that providers of relevant services should appoint a named person to lead the implementation of guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures. This person is also responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures are aligned with best practice as set out in Children First national guidance 2017.

The named person for Aiséirí is Sara Cassidy, Head of Clinical Services.

SARA CASSIDY



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RISK ASSESSMENT

On the basis of being a relevant service as defined under Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015 Aiséirí has completed a safeguarding children risk assessment.

This is with a view to having a safeguarding plan in place which minimises the risk, as far as practicable, to any child/young person attending their facilities and/or having contact with the services.

The table below sets out the identified risks to the safety of children and young people, involved with or attending Aiséirí services and the steps taken to manage and minimise the risk of harm.

RISK	MITIGATING CONTROLS / ACTIONS	RISK MANAGER
<p>1. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN BY STAFF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe recruitment procedures in place. (9-AGP-HR) • Induction procedures in place. (11-AGP-HR) • Staff code of ethics in place. (17-AGP-HR Safeguarding policy 2025 & Staff Handbook) • Lone working policy is actioned in relevant situations. (15-AGP-HR) • Safeguarding policy and procedures 2025 implemented with reference to responding, recognising, reporting and recording suspected harm to children • Garda vetting policy actioned. (2-AGP-HR) • Guidance with regards to safe supervision ratios of children by staff contained within Safeguarding policy and procedures • Complaints and compliments policy in place, quarterly reports on activity to Board and HSE (7-AGP-HR) • Whistleblowing policy actioned. (21-AGP-HR) • Volunteer code of ethics set out in (22-RSP) 	<p>Managers</p>
<p>2. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN BY OTHER ADULTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiseiri Protocol on room usage by external groups implemented in adult units • High levels of staff supervision on site plus 24 hour monitored CCTV • Aiseiri CCTV policy actioned (21-AGP-HR) • Process for signing in of other adults 	<p>Managers</p>
<p>3. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN DUE TO UNSAFE RECRUITMENT OF STAFF AND CONTRACTORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe recruitment of staff procedures in place. (See 1 above) • Safe procedures in place for contractors (17-AGP-HR Safeguarding policy & procedures) 	<p>Managers</p>
<p>4. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD FROM ANOTHER SERVICE USER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility for supervision of residents in operation across the staff group and 24 hour monitored CCTV in operation • Codes of behaviour for children and for adults actioned. • In situations where bullying may be an issue the anti bullying policy will be applied. (31-AGP-HR) 	<p>Managers</p>
<p>5. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD DUE TO A CHILD PROTECTION OR WELFARE CONCERN NOT BEING RECOGNISED OR REPORTED BY A CHILD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child friendly Child Safeguarding Statement posters are in place across all Aiseiri units. These posters identify the DLP and their contact details • The Child Safeguarding Statement is also on display across the units • Education and Information for client's policy and procedures (3-AGP-CO) actioned. This includes a Client Information Handbook • Admission pack accessed by client and their family (002.3_AKK) 	<p>Clinical</p>

<p>6. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN IF CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES ARE NOT OPERATIONAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and procedures signed off by CEO • All staff sign off that they have read and will follow policy and procedures • Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person actioned (17.2.HR) • Reports of child protection and/or welfare concerns received by DLP and forwarded to TUSLA when appropriate • All staff aware of their responsibilities under Children First, enhanced by Children First training 	<p>DLP</p>
<p>7. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN DUE TO ACCESS TO INAPPROPRIATE MEDIA CONTENT BY STAFF OR CHILDREN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While resident the young people do not have access to communication devices • Reference staff code of behaviour, children’s code of behaviour and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures guidance re online safety 	<p>Clinical</p>
<p>8. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN IF SYSTEM IS NOT IN PLACE TO RECOGNISE, RESPOND, REPORT AND RECORD CHILD PROTECTION OR WELFARE CONCERNS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System actioned through safeguarding children policy and procedures and enhanced by in house training • DLP and Deputy DLP appointed and aware of their Children First responsibilities • Board receive regular updates from the DLP re Children First compliance 	<p>Clinical</p>
<p>9. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN IF STAFF UNCLEAR RE PROCEDURE TO RESPOND TO A LOST OR MISSING CHILD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for all residents in place, policy and procedures for a missing client (AG-Pro- 10) • Additional guidance re missing children in Safeguarding policy and procedures 	<p>Managers</p>
<p>10. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF MANDATED PERSONS HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THEIR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CHILDREN FIRST</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandated persons to receive half day Children First training led by the DLP • Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons actioned. (17-HR) • Guidance for mandated persons also in Safeguarding policy and procedures 	<p>Clinical</p>
<p>11. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF THERE IS NOT A POLICY IN PLACE TO RESPOND TO INFORMATION REQUESTS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial information on the service is on the web site for young people. www.aiseiri.ie 	<p>Compliance</p>
<p>12. RISK OF HARM TO CHILDREN IF THERE IS NO STAFF TRAINING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the trainer programme to begin rollout across the Aiseiri system in October 2025 	<p>Clinical</p>
<p>13. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF STAFF DO NOT RECEIVE REGULAR PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional supervision is actioned on a monthly basis. Records are kept of these sessions • Reference Aiseiri case notes and written records policy. (8-AGP-HR) • Supervision policy and procedure actioned 	<p>Clinical</p>

14. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF THERE IS NOT A PROTECTED DISCLOSURES POLICY IN OPERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whistleblowing policy actioned. See 1 above 	Clinical
15. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HAVE NOT BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR CHILDREN / YOUNG PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission pack in place (002.3-AKK) 	Clinical
16. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES ARE NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS AND RELEVANT BODIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On website and link on Statement and statement poster 	Management
17. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF THE PARTNERSHIP POLICY RE WORKING WITH PARENTS IS NOT OPERATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract on admission is countersigned by parents Family Support policy also in place (14-AGP-CM) 	Clinical
18. RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD IF THERE IS NO SYSTEM IN PLACE TO RECORD COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints and compliments policy actioned. See 1 above 	Clinical

In addition to the mitigating procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our overall intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Aiséirí Work Place Dignity & Respect Policy & Procedures (6-AGP-HR)
- Aiséirí Grievance Policy & Procedure (1-AGP-HR)
- Aiséirí Disciplinary Policy & Procedure (28-AGP-HR)
- Aiséirí safeguarding children training plan 2025, Safeguarding policy and procedures (17-AGP-HR)
- Aiséirí Whistleblowing Policy & Procedures (21-AGP-HR)
- Aiséirí safeguarding children communication plan 2025, Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Aiséirí Lone working policy and procedure (15-AGP-HR)
- Aiséirí confidentiality guidance in respect of safeguarding children, Safeguarding children policy and procedures 2025
- 17.1 HR Procedure for Maintaining a list of mandated persons
- 17.2 HR Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures and policies listed above are available on request or are available on the Aiséirí SharePoint site.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed no later than 2 years from the date of issue of this document or as soon as practicable if there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Date 16th December 2025

Signed 
Chairperson, Board of Management, Aiséirí

IMPLEMENTATION

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify, as far as practicable, the risks of harm that are relevant to Aiséirí and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage the identified risks.

This Child Safeguarding Statement has now been provided to:

- All staff, volunteers, contractors and partners linked with Aiséirí
- On request it will be provided to a parent / guardian (primary carer) of a child / young person availing of our services or activities
- Or to TUSLA, Child and Family Agency

This statement is also available on line on the Aiséirí website www.aiseiri.ie