



Promoting Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Telephone: 045-448700
International: +353-45-448700
Email: kare@kare.ie
Website: www.kare.ie

Newbridge Industrial Estate
Newbridge
Co. Kildare
W12 Y497

Child Safeguarding Statement - Alternative Respite

1. Name of service being provided:

Alternative Respite provides residential short breaks (respite) to children with an intellectual disability so that parents/carers may have a break from the day to day care of their family member.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm (brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children):

Alternative Respite recognises that in accordance with legislation and with Kare Policies and Procedures that the welfare and Safety of Children are paramount in all circumstances. We aim to ensure that all children who avail of our services have a positive, safe and enjoyable experience within a Safe Environment supported by a Qualified and Caring Staff Team.

We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard. Kare commit to treating all children equally regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, or sexual orientation.

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, DCYA, 2017, Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Practice and Procedure, Tusla, 2018, and the Children First Act 2015.

We believe the following:

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
3. All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
4. We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to and heard.
5. Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
6. Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

Registered Office: Kare, Newbridge Industrial Estate, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, Ireland.
A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in Dublin No: 48017
Revenue Charity No. CHY 5907 & Registered Charity No. CRA No. 20009700

Directors:

M. Behan, R. Bolster, N. Merrick, G. O'Hara, B. Murray, J. Dalton, D. Maher, C. Prendergast, C. Wiseman-Kennedy & B. Timmons.

3. Risk Assessment

Alternative Respite has a comprehensive risk register which is managed in line with Kare's Risk Management Policy. The register includes risk assessments relating to the safety, protection and welfare of children while availing of the services and supports offered by Alternative Respite.

Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm (as defined by Children's first Act 2015) caused by lack of supervision	Staff training Pre employment check Reporting procedures in line with Children's first act Staff awareness of compatibility issues Maintain staffing ratio
2	Risk of harm (as defined by Children's first Act 2015) caused by another child in the service	Staff training Specific risk assessments following an incident Staff awareness of compatibility issues and planning accordingly
3	Risk of harm to a child from a staff member	Garda clearance Pre-employment checks Professional standards for healthcare staff Professional registration for healthcare professionals Reporting procedure in line with Children First Act 2015 Kare policy and procedure for protecting children from abuse and neglect HR Policy in place to manage safeguarding concerns and allegations against staff. Staff have completed Children First online training
4	Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	Appropriate levels of supervision for children using Kare services. Staff supervision and training policies Reporting procedure in line with Children First Act 2015 Positive behaviour support incorporating restrictive practices Personal support plans
5	Risk of non-compliance Children First Act 2015	All staff will complete Children First online training and additional training when provided by Kare Garda clearance for all employees/ volunteers Clear reporting procedures are in place Review and learning from each investigation Staff/ volunteers to read and understand roles and responsibilities under children first policy Designated Liaison Persons are available to give advice and guidance to staff.
6	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	All staff have completed Children First online training Refresher training every three years Additional mandated persons training is offered to staff Legal obligations of mandated persons Designated Liaison person to provide advice/ support to staff. Safeguarding on agenda at every team meeting.
7	Risk of non-compliance with Data protection legislation	Confidential documents are stored securely Information re children is shared on a need to know basis Parental consent is required for transfer of information Interagency data sharing agreement in place as required
8	Child not being collected from service	Respite admission and discharge policy Service agreements with families

Each risk assessment includes additional controls in place to minimise the risk. The Risk management policy has the additional detail on the process and procedure. It is reviewed on a regular basis – last review November 2025.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

All procedures listed are available upon request.

- Child Protection and Welfare Policy including procedure for managing and reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person - Kare has committed to appointing the Principal Social worker to this role.
- The appointed person and process for appointment for Child protection is identified in the policy in detail.
- Trust in Care Policy which outlines the procedures for managing allegations of abuse by a staff member
- Recruitment and Selection Policy and Volunteer Policy including reference checking and garda vetting procedures.
- Mandatory Introduction to Children first training for all staff on HSEland, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Mandatory Training on Safeguarding Vulnerable persons at risk of abuse for all staff, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Performance Management Policy and Staff Training Policy including procedures for identifying and delivering specific training required for individual staff's roles.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated staff
- Kare's Safety Statement
- Policies governing provision of day to day support e.g. Intimate Care, Safe Administration of Medication, Healthy Eating, Collection of Children who use Kare services and Outings
- Risk management policy

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service 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 annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.



Signed: _____

Date: November 2025

Margaret O'Neill, CEO Kare

For queries and information, please contact Kare's Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, who is Rosemary Keenan, Kare Support Services, Kilcullen, Co Kildare; Tel: 045 480200.

This statement has been published on Kare's website and 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 if requested.

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