

Child Safeguarding Statement

South Kildare West Wicklow Children's Disability Network Team (SKWWCDNT)

1. Name of service being provided:

The Children's Disability Network Team works in partnership with Children and Young People with disabilities, with their families, to support their development and to enable active participation in community life.

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):

Kare functions as lead agency for the South Kildare Children's Disability Network and in this role has oversight and governance for the team. The CDNT provides interdisciplinary supports to children and young people aged 0-18 years who present with complex needs. They are a team of professionals with different expertise working in partnership with families, school/outside agencies to develop and implement integrated intervention programmes. 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.

The SKWWCDNT recognises that the welfare and Safety of Children are paramount in all circumstances. We aim to ensure that all children and young people who avail of our services have a positive, safe and enjoyable experience. All HSE and Kare policies 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 and The Convention on the Rights of the Child (**UNCRC**).

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. Our aim on this applies to everyone in our organisation. Staff must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the values of our organisation.

3. Risk Assessment

The SKWWCDNT has a comprehensive risk register which is managed in line with HSE and 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 SKCNDT.

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 All clinicians are Mandated Persons and received information related to their mandated role Designated Liaison Person role (DLP)
2	Risk of harm (as defined by Children's first Act 2015) caused by another child in the service	Staff training Risk register 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 for Kare Employees Employee issues remain the responsibility of the employing agency within the consortium as per the interagency agreement, this includes Trust in Care Policy Staff have completed Children First online training and all clinicians are Mandated Persons and received information related to their mandated role
4	Risk of harm to a child from a visitor or member of the public, family member	Appropriate levels of supervision for children using SKWWCDNT services. Local incident reporting procedures and incident management Reporting procedure in line with Children First Act 2015 Clinical supervision in place for all staff Staff training in child protection and mandated person role. Local security arrangements in place
5	Risk of non-compliance Children First Act 2015	All staff will complete Children First online training and additional training when provided by KARE All clinicians are Mandated Persons and received information related to their mandated role Garda clearance for all employees/ students Clear reporting procedures are in place Review and learning from each investigation Staff/ students to read and understand roles and responsibilities under children first policy Designated Liaison Persons is 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 and all clinicians are Mandated Persons and received information related to their mandated role Additional mandated persons training is offered to staff Designated Liaison person to provide advice/ support to staff. Regular team meetings in place and safeguarding issues and concerns discussed as appropriate relevant to the child. .

7	Risk of non-compliance with Data protection legislation	Confidential documents are stored securely Information regarding 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	Not applicable for this service
9	Risk of Harm to a child from the use / misuse of digital images	Consent for gathering images for specified purpose Data protection records management policy for Kare employees HSE ICT policy for all staff and Use of ICT policy for Kare Employees Data Protection Act 2018 Managing Data Breaches process
10	Risk of ham through access to ICT	Not applicable for this service.
11	Risk to the quality of service provided to the child	Clinical supervision Recruitment and selection Garda Clearance CORU registration Line management structure in place Continual Professional Development and appropriate professional training
12	Risk of harm to a child in community environments	All clinicians are mandated persons, and respond to their role in line with the mandated persons responsibility. Home Visits/School visits are always in presence of family member or guardian or school representative. Schools have locally identified Designated Liaison Person/s

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 in line with the Act, SKWW Children's Disability Network Manager.
- The Designated person and process for appointment for Child protection is identified in the policy in detail.
- Trust in Care Policy and Interagency agreement in relation to CDNT employer responsibilities 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.
- Induction Process with the Employee Handbook includes mandatory Introduction to Children first training for all staff on HSEland, including the identification of the occurrence of harm; and refreshed every two years;

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.



Promoting Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities

- Mandatory Training on Safeguarding Vulnerable persons at risk of abuse for all staff, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Local procedures for all staff and Staff Training Policy for Kare employees including procedures for identifying and delivering mandated and specific training required for individual staff's roles.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated staff
- HSE Safety Statement as it applies to the locations of the teams
- Risk management policy
- Data Protection / Records management policy and procedures for managing information in line with GDPR requirements along with the HSE's Records 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 every 24 months 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 SKWWCDNT Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, who is Catherine Byne, South Kildare Network Disability Team, 1st Floor Kildare Primary Care Centre, Old Dublin Road, Kildare Town, Co Kildare R51 RX51 Tel: 045908644 or HSE Athy Primary Care Centre, Dublin Road, Athy, Co. Kildare, R14 DX94 Telephone: 0598643800

This statement has been published on the www.CH07CDNT.ie website and www.kare.ie 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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