



Child Safeguarding Statement

(Prepared in accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015)

Westcare Homecare is an approved HSE care provider. We specialise in working with clients and their families who require care in their homes. Our ethos is to provide person-centred care and we do this in a dignified and professional manner. Every client receiving our service will experience quality care and it is essential to us that excellence remains at the forefront of our efforts. Our services are aligned to the HSE's 'Your Service Your Say' and are tailored to suit each client/family's individual requests and needs and these services include;

Homecare Services Adults and Children
Disability Services Adults and Children
Physical and Intellectual

Cancer Support Services
Disability Care

Companion Care
Live in Care

PRINCIPALS TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of Westcare Homecare. The following guiding principles to safeguard children from harm are informed by Children First Guidance and legislation:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and to be taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- All children must be treated equally.
- Child protection is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the best interests of children

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Category	Procedures in place to manage risk identified
1. Risk of harm to a child by a member of staff, or work experience student, including risks related to online activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure • Westcare Homecare's Code of Ethics Policy • Westcare Homecare's Recruitment and selection procedures • Trust in Care Policy which includes the procedure for managing allegations of abuse made against a staff member • Staff Supervision policies • Internet Policy • Spot checks , client reviews
2. Risk of harm to a child from a client (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Supervision policies • Internet Policy
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory training "An Introduction to Children First" eLearning module • Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure • Westcare Homecare's Child Protection Policy • Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons • Children First included in Employee Induction
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory training "An Introduction to Children First" eLearning module • Staff supervision • Staff induction
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance in our services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement • Compliance Officer in place to ensure Children First Governance Structures in place • Internal Audit

Procedures

(All Westcare Homecare Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available at www.westcarehomecare.ie)

This Child Safeguarding Statement of Westcare Homecare 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), HSE Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Guidance issued by Tusla – Child and Family Agency. In addition to the policies and procedures named above the following HSE policies and procedures also support our intention to safeguard children availing of our services

- Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm
- Children First training is provided to all Westcare Homecare staff and refresher training through Continuous Professional Development every 3 years

Implementation

Westcare Homecare is committed to implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that are in place to support the commitment to keep children safe from harm. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed before 1st July, 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Sharon Carter—Director Westcare Homecare