

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

DEBRA Ireland is a national Irish charity (RCN 20021726), established to provide support services to patients and families living with the debilitating skin condition [Epidermolysis Bullosa](#) (EB). We also drive research into treatments and provide advocacy for those living with the condition.

Our services are offered to families during life and afterwards in bereavement. DEBRA Ireland's services are predominately aimed at adults and parents of children with EB who regularly act as carers.

- DEBRA Ireland provides an outreach services to families which takes place primarily in the family home.
- Family support services include home visits and family outings.

2. Principles

DEBRA Ireland is 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. We recognise our responsibility and are committed to identifying and responding to allegations and suspicions of child abuse or neglect.

- The aim and purpose of our policies and procedures are to safeguard children, young people, families and staff, which are based on and adhere to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, (henceforth the *National Guidance*) published in 2019 and the Children First Act 2015.

Scope - Our policy declaration applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/ board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All committee board members, staff, volunteers and students must abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our child safeguarding policy and accompanying procedures.

3. Risk Assessment

All potential risks have a relevant procedure to manage the risks as outlined below

KEY RISKS IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO MANAGE RISK
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) /neglect/abuse by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	Child Protection Policy Staff Training Volunteer Policy Discipline Procedure Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices Policy. Garda vetting, Staff recruitment policy Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) appointed
Risk of harm not recognised or reported	Mandated persons named and listed and aware of requirements to report

Responsibility

The CEO and DLP are responsible for ensuring the above risks are managed.

Oversight of risk management overseen by the board of trustees.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance* 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:

- Procedure for reporting harm or abuse or allegations of these to Tusla by the provider DEBRA Ireland or member of staff (whether mandated or not).
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while attending our service.
- Procedure for selection or recruitment of any person as a member of staff of the provider with regards to that person's suitability to work with children.
- Procedure for the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training to members of staff in relation to the occurrence of harm.
- CEO maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the service who are mandated persons.
- The appointment of a relevant person for the purposes of this statement **who is** Deirdre Callis.

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 *twenty-four months* or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any **matter to which the statement refers**.

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

Signed:



Date

08/09/2020

Name:

Deirdre Callis

Tel

01 4126924

Signed:



Date

11/09/2020

Name:

Jimmy Fearon

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01 4126924