



Growing Up in Ireland

Child Safeguarding Statement

19 February 2020

Review Date 19 February 2022

Background

The Children First Act 2015 requires organisations that are providers of ‘relevant services’¹ to prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement. This is a written statement that specifies the relevant work being carried out and the measures taken to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child engaging with the organisation is safe from harm. It includes a risk assessment detailing the procedures in place to manage potential risks to a child’s safety.

Growing Up in Ireland

Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) is a longitudinal study of children which is being carried out by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD). The study started in 2006 and follows the progress of two groups of children, just over 8,500 9-year-olds (Cohort’98) and 11,000 9-month-olds (Cohort’08). The members of Cohort’98 are currently aged 21/22 years old and those of Cohort’08 are 11/12 years old (February 2020).

Growing Up in Ireland is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and is overseen and managed by the DCYA in association with the Central Statistics Office. It is being carried out for government by a group of independent researchers led by the ESRI and TCD.

The main objective of the study is to describe the lives of children in Ireland in the relevant age categories and to establish what is typical and normal, as well as what is atypical and problematic, in terms of their well-being and development.

Child Safeguarding Guiding Principles

The **Growing Up in Ireland** Study Team is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people involved in the project. Every member of staff has a responsibility to ensure that children and young people engaging with the project are protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to and have their own views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them. These guiding principles are underpinned by the following best practice guidance and legislation:

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- TUSLA’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children First Act 2015
- Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998
- National Vetting Bureau Act 2012

¹ As per Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015

This section provides a description of the relevant activities, an assessment of risk and the procedures in place to manage risks.

a) Description of Relevant Activities:

Implementation of the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** project involves interviewing the children, young people and parents in their own homes. These interviews are administered by field interviewers who visit participants' homes. The field interviewers are employed by the ESRI. In addition, as part of the consultative process in the design and development of the project, focus groups with children and young people are carried out on occasion. Focus groups are held in the ESRI or in children's schools.

b) Assessment of Risk and Procedures in place:

A Risk Assessment was carried out to identify any potential for harm to a child arising from their involvement in the study. Below is a summary of the areas of risk identified and procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1.	Risk of a staff member becoming aware of a child welfare or protection concern.	A reporting procedure is in place and is communicated to both Head Office and field staff.
2.	Risk of an inadequate response to a child welfare or protection concern.	A Designated Liaison Person, and deputy Designated Liaison Person, are in place. Both are accessible to staff and are aware of their responsibilities to report concerns.
3.	Risk of non-compliance with Children First legislation.	A <i>Guiding Principles & Safeguarding Procedures</i> document is in place. It is communicated to staff and reviewed regularly, at minimum before each phase of fieldwork.
4.	Risk of harm of a child by a staff member.	<i>Growing Up in Ireland</i> has a rigorous staff selection, recruitment and training process in place. All staff are Garda Vetted before beginning work. Identity verification is carried out as part of this process. Candidates applying to work directly with children are assessed regarding their suitability to work with children. This includes character reference checks.
5.	Risk of a staff member not receiving appropriate training in child protection.	All staff, both Head Office and field staff, undertake TUSLA's Children First eLearning training module. Additional training and guidance materials are provided to staff relevant to their duties.
6.	Risk of an allegation of misconduct against a staff member.	A procedure is in place to manage an allegation of misconduct against a staff member.

The ***Growing Up in Ireland*** team is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children encountered in the course of the study and to protecting them from any harm which could arise from their participation. All processes, procedures, questionnaires and tests are subject to external review by oversight committees and an independent Research Ethics Committee.

The health, safety and protection of all children encountered in the course of the study are always paramount to the people who are responsible for ***Growing Up in Ireland***.

Relevant Person

The Relevant Person for the purposes of this Child Safeguarding Statement is Aoife Murphy, Fieldwork Manager and Designated Liaison Person, ***Growing Up in Ireland***, Economic and Social Research Institute. As per Schedule 2 of the Children First Act 2015, the study does not have a mandated person.

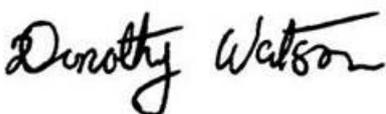
If you would like any further information about ***Growing Up in Ireland's*** commitment to safeguarding children or our child protection policies and procedures please contact Aoife Murphy, by email: aoife.murphy@esri.ie or telephone: 01-8632000.

Monitor and Review

GUI's child safeguarding policies and procedures have been developed in line with the requirements set out in the Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance 2017. Implementation is an ongoing process and all policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated. All procedures listed are available on request.

This is the second iteration of ***Growing Up in Ireland's*** Child Safeguarding Statement. It will be reviewed at least every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



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