



## Dublin Fire Brigade Child Safeguarding Statement

Version Control				
Version	Date	Nature of change	Author	Approved by
1.1	03/10/2019	Annual Review 2019	Brendan McNicholas	
1.2	02/03/2020	Review 2020	Michelle O'Toole	
1.3	10/04/2020	Viewing by Law Dept.	Michelle O'Toole	Dennis Keeley

Dublin Fire Brigade operates a Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Service that responds to approximately 120,000 incidents annually within the greater Dublin area serving a transient population of approximately 2 million people. Dublin Fire Brigade also manages the East Region Communications Centre, which processes in excess of 180,000 999/112 calls for fire services in sixteen counties, and for emergency medical services in the Dublin area.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, and Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, Dublin Fire Brigade has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 Dublin Fire Brigade has adopted and will implement fully and without modification, Dublin City Council's Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children 2019 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mary Quinn (01 2226173) mary.quinn@dublincity.ie  
A number of Dublin Fire Brigade personnel are trained to DLP standard and contact details for these personnel are available on request.
- 3 Dublin Fire Brigade recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of emergency response life and therefore, must be reflected in all Dublin Fire Brigade policies, procedures, practices and activities. Dublin Fire Brigade will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

Dublin Fire Brigade will:

- 3.1 Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- 3.2 Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children, including Mandated Reporting.

- 3.3 Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters, in line with the requirement of Mandated Assisting.
- 3.4 Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- 3.5 Develop a practice of openness and respect with parents, where possible, recognising that the safety of both the child and the staff members must be considered.
- 3.6 Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters, by informing relevant personnel on a need to know basis only i.e. An Garda Síochána, Túsla, Emergency Department staff and Designated Liaison Persons within DFB/DCC.
- 3.7 Take all disclosures of abuse seriously (including retrospective disclosures), reporting concerns above the threshold of harm to Túsla, using the appropriate form.

4 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- 4.1 In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child under our care, Dublin Fire Brigade adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Children First guidelines and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for Dublin Fire Brigade and Dublin City Council Staff which are published on the DubNet website.
- 4.2 In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, Dublin Fire Brigade adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DCC and available on the DCC DubNet website.
- 4.3 In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) Dublin Fire Brigade
  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Dublin Fire Brigade's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures frontline staff receive relevant training in relation to child welfare
  - Encourages all members to avail of relevant upskilling and refresher training every two years
  - Maintains records, at the Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre, of all staff training
  - Has distributed an information pack to all DFB workplaces containing relevant legislation, guidance documentation in relation to child safeguarding.

4.4 In Dublin Fire Brigade, the appointed Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Mary Quinn (01 2226173 or mary.quinn@dublincity.ie)** of Dublin City Council. She is defined as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

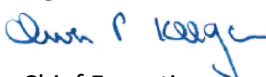
- 4.5 All Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics, registered with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council and employed at Dublin Fire Brigade, are 'Mandated Persons' under the Children First Act 2015. Dublin Fire Brigade is committed to fully supporting our Mandated Persons in reporting their concerns regarding child welfare to Túsla.
- 4.6 Dual reporting to both Túsla and An Garda Síochána is required in certain circumstances. These specific offences are outlined in Schedule 1, Section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) 2012.
- 4.7 In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Dublin Fire Brigade has carried out a risk assessment of any potential for harm to a child encountered in the course of our duties. This written risk assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and Dublin Fire Brigade procedures for managing those risks is available for inspection as required.
- 4.8 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the DubNet (Dublin Fire Brigade Private Area) or can be made available on request by Dublin Fire Brigade.

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list.

- 5 This statement has been published on the Dublin City Council and Dublin Fire Brigade private websites and has been provided to all members of Dublin Fire Brigade personnel. It is readily accessible in all DFB work stations. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Túsla and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs if requested.
- 6 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable following material changes in any matter to which this statement refers.

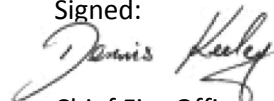
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Dublin City Council and Dublin Fire Brigade on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

Signed:



Chief Executive  
Dublin City Council

Signed:



Chief Fire Officer  
Dublin Fire Brigade

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

RA Type 1.Work Loc.  2.Vehicle  3.Fire Equip  4.Fire Ops

5. EMS Equip  6. EMS Ops  7. P.P.E.  8. Other

Assessor(s): Child Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Review Date: Feb 2022



**Dublin Fire Brigade - Risk Rating Matrix**  
(See Procedure OHS 002 for guidance in completing this assessment)

			Rare (<10%)	Unlikely (10-30%)	Possible (30-60%)	Likely (60-90%)	Almost Certain (90-100%)
Low Risk RR = 1 - 6	No Additional Controls Required	Minor (No Injury)	1	2	3	4	5
Medium Risk RR = 8 - 12	Additional Controls Required As Soon As Practicable	Moderate (<3 days)	2	4	6	8	10
High Risk RR = 15 - 25	Work Prohibited Additional Controls Required Immediately	Serious (3 – 28days)	3	6	9	12	15
<b>R = Risk Rating</b> <b>L = Likelihood</b> <b>S = Severity</b>  R = L x S	<b>Persons Affected</b>  Operational Personnel, Non Operational Personnel, A Trainees / Young Persons, Expectant &/or New Mothers, Authorised Contractors, Visitors / Public, Disabled Persons, Other Emergency Services	Very Serious (>28days)	4	8	12	16	20
		Catastrophic (Death)	5	10	15	20	25

**LIKELIHOOD**

Rare Accidents could only happen under certain conditions. The situation is very well controlled and all reasonable precautions have been taken.  
 Unlikely The situation is well under control but occasional lapses could occur.  
 Possible If the situation is not well managed an accident is likely to occur.  
 Very Likely Inadequate health and safety controls in place. If conditions remain unchanged there is a high probability of an accident.  
 Almost Certain Inadequate health and safety controls, an accident will occur.

**SEVERITY**

Minor No injury.  
 Moderate Injury / harm that is of a temporary nature and results in less than 3 days absence.  
 Serious Injury / harm that is of a temporary nature and results in more than 3 days absence but not more than 28 days.  
 Very Serious Injury resulting in more than 28 days absence / irreversible injury / permanent disablement.  
 Catastrophic Death or multiple irreversible injuries.

**NOTE : All Personnel Shall Attend Training and Having Regard for Their Training and Instruction, Make Correct Use of PPE and Equipment They also have a duty to Take Reasonable Care To Protect Their Safety And The Safety Of Others.**

No.	Hazard	Situational Outcome / Consequence	Persons Affected	Initial Risk Rating LxS=R <sup>I</sup>	Current Control Measures	Final Risk Rating LxS=R <sup>F</sup>	Person(s) Responsible
1	<p><b>Operational Duties</b></p> <p>Providing medical treatment to ill/injured children</p>	<p>Miscalculating medication doses</p> <p>Refusing treatment/ transport</p>	<p>DFB Staff</p> <p>Children</p>	<p>4x3=12</p>	<p>Paramedic Training (as per PHECC standards)</p> <p>Ongoing CPG upskilling (every 2 years)</p> <p>Encourage use of PHECC App/ Medication Formulary to check doses</p>	<p>2x3=6</p>	<p>Practitioners (EMTs/Ps/APs)</p>
2	<p>Children travelling unaccompanied, where an appropriate adult is unavailable or has declined to travel</p>	<p>Harm/Abuse potential</p>	<p>DFB Staff</p> <p>Children</p>	<p>3x4=12</p>	<p>Garda Vetting (every 5 years)</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Request additional personnel e.g. Fire crew/ Gardaí unless life threatening emergency</p> <p>Cameras in Ambulances (DFB Recording policy)</p>	<p>2x4=8</p>	<p>BTO and Training staff</p> <p>OIC of CSG</p> <p>CSG Coordinator</p>
3	<p>Assisting children in and out of the ambulance</p>	<p>Moving and Handling- slips, trips, falls</p>	<p>DFB Staff</p> <p>Children</p>	<p>3x3=9</p>	<p>Garda Vetting (every 5 years)</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Manual Handling Training</p> <p>Verbal Guidance to Children</p>	<p>1x3=3</p>	

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4	Presence of the fire appliance/ambulance attracting nearby children	Harm/abuse potential	DFB Staff Children	3x4=12	Garda Vetting (every 5 years) Child Safeguarding Training Ensuring another adult/staff member is present when interacting with children, where possible	1x4=4	Practitioners EMTs/Ps/APs  BTO and Training staff
5	All other occasions where a DFB staff member is left alone with a child e.g colleague retrieving equipment from ambulance	Harm/abuse potential	DFB Staff Children	4x4=16	Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Training Paramedic Training and upskilling Cameras in Ambulances (DFB Recording policy) Ensuring another adult/staff member is present when interacting with children, where possible	2x4=8	OIC of CSG  CSG Coordinator  OIC at scene
6	Violence/Aggression following a mandated reporting case	Further risk of harm to both child and DFB staff member	DFB Staff Children	4x4=16	Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Training Paramedic Training and upskilling Engage with Tusla re process of identifying reporters and informing family of same	2x4=8	

No.	Hazard	Situational Outcome / Consequence	Persons Affected	Initial Risk Rating $L \times S = R^I$	Current Control Measures	Final Risk Rating $L \times S = R^F$	Person(s) Responsible
7	<p><b>Community Visits – onsite and offsite</b></p> <p>Unaccompanied children e.g. inappropriate teacher/student ratios or random callers to station</p>	<p>Harm/abuse potential</p> <p>Slips, trips and falls</p>	<p>DFB Staff</p> <p>Children</p>	<p>3x3=9</p>	<p>Garda Vetting</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Paramedic Training and upskilling</p> <p>Insisting additional adults are present</p> <p>Appropriate housekeeping duties are carried out</p>	<p>1x3=3</p>	<p>Practitioners</p> <p>EMTs/Ps/AP</p> <p>BTO and Training staff</p> <p>OIC of CSG</p>
8	<p>Local events e.g. street parties, bringing Santa to a community event etc</p>	<p>Harm/abuse potential</p>	<p>DFB Staff</p> <p>Children</p>	<p>3x3=9</p>	<p>Garda Vetting</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Paramedic Training and upskilling</p> <p>Ensuring another adult/staff member is present when interacting with children</p>	<p>1x3=3</p>	<p>CSG Coordinator</p>
9	<p>Assisting children in and out of Fire Appliance</p>	<p>Moving and Handling</p> <p>Slips, trips, falls</p>	<p>DFB Staff</p> <p>Children</p>	<p>3x3=9</p>	<p>Garda Vetting (every 5 years)</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Manual Handling Training</p> <p>Verbal Guidance to Children</p>	<p>1x3=3</p>	<p>OIC of CSG</p> <p>OIC at scene</p>

No.	Hazard	Situational Outcome / Consequence	Persons Affected	Initial Risk Rating $L \times S = R^I$	Current Control Measures	Final Risk Rating $L \times S = R^F$	Person(s) Responsible
10	<p><b>General risks for DFB staff</b></p> <p>Inability to recognise the signs of children experiencing harm/abuse</p>	Risk of further abuse/harm	DFB Staff Children	4x4=16	<p>Child Safeguarding Training every 2 years (including assigned elearning modules)</p> <p>Educational Material available in work locations</p> <p>DLP available for support and advice</p>	1x4=4	Practitioners (EMTs/Ps/APs)  BTO and Training staff
11	Lack of Awareness of Mandated Person’s role and responsibilities	<p>Non-compliance with legislation</p> <p>Risk of further abuse/harm</p>	DFB Staff Children	3x4=12	<p>Child Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Paramedic Training and upskilling</p> <p>Organisational Memos</p> <p>Educational Material available in work locations</p>	2x4=8	OIC of CSG  CSG Coordinator
12	Failure to report a child protection concern promptly and properly	<p>Non-compliance with legislation</p> <p>Further risk of harm/abuse</p>	DFB Staff Children	5x4=20	<p>Child Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Support to make a joint report with DLP</p> <p>Awareness that non-compliance can lead to disciplinary procedures and fitness to practice enquiries</p>	1x4=4	



No.	Hazard	Situational Outcome / Consequence	Persons Affected	Initial Risk Rating $L \times S = R^I$	Current Control Measures	Final Risk Rating $L \times S = R^F$	Person(s) Responsible
13	Noticing indicators of abuse where potential abusers are present	Risk of further harm/abuse	DFB Staff Children	5x4=20	Child Safeguarding Training every 2 years (including assigned eLearning modules) Educational Material available in work locations	2x4=8	Practitioners (EMTs/Ps/A Ps)
14	Over-zealous reactions to indications or disclosures of harm/abuse	Risk of further harm/abuse	DFB Staff Children	4x4=16	Child Safeguarding Training Paramedic Training and upskilling, including Interpersonal skills training	2x4=8	BTO and Training staff  OIC of CSG  CSG Coordinator
15	Contact with children on social media	Harm/Abuse potential	DFB Staff Children	2x4=8	Child Safeguarding Training Paramedic Training and upskilling Adhere to DCC Social Media Policy	1x4=4	
16	Allegations of harm made against DFB members	Harm/Abuse potential  Psychosocial issue for accused member	DFB Staff Children	3x4=12	Garda Vetting, DFB/ DCC Code of Conduct Child Safeguarding Training Staff Support/CISM	2x4=8	