

# REPORTING THRESHOLDS

## REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR CONCERN

### AFFECTS –

### Health, welfare and development of the child

- Outlined in the Children First National Guidance
- Applies to everybody
- There is a moral and ethical responsibility to report child safeguarding concerns
- Reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern include:
  - Evidence, for example an injury or behaviour, that is consistent with abuse and is unlikely to have been caused in any other way
  - Any concern about possible sexual abuse
  - Consistent signs that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect
  - A child saying or indicating by other means that he or she has been abused
  - Admission or indication by an adult or a child of an alleged abuse they committed
  - An account from a person who saw the child being abused

## THRESHOLD OF HARM

### SERIOUSLY AFFECTS –

### Health, welfare and development of the child

- Outlined in the Children First Act, 2015
- Applies to Mandated Persons – those listed in Schedule 2 of the Children First Act, 2015
- Places a legal responsibility on Mandated Persons to report concerns that meet or exceed the definition of harm as per the Children First Act, 2015
- Uses the Definition of Harm as per the Children First Act, 2015

Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows:

'harm means in relation to a child -

- a. assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or,
- b. sexual abuse of the child.'

