

National Child Safeguarding Programme

Sectoral Training and Information Implementation Plan Narrative - 2024



National Child Safeguarding Programme Sectoral Training and Information Implementation Plan

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National Child Safeguarding Programme Training Strategy 2024

Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy for ELC and SAC Services (OVERVIEW)

	Training/Information	Conditions	Target Audience
Step 1 UNIVERSAL	Children First eLearning Programme (Universal)	Completion required within one year of attendance at foundation programme	All workers in ELC/SAC services nationally
Step 2 UNIVERSAL	Children First Mandated Person eLearning Module (Mandated Persons Only)	Completion required within one year of attendance at foundation programme	All Mandated Persons in services nationally
Step 3	Always Children First Child Safeguarding Awareness Training (ELC/SAC Sector Specific)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6-hour face to face training programme ○ Min 10 – Max 22 Participants 	All Providers of Relevant Services and All workers in ELC/SAC services nationally who have not previously attended foundation training DLP/DDLP who have not attended in past 5 years All other workers and volunteers in ELC/SAC services nationally
Step 4 UNIVERSAL	DLP Programme eLearning Module	Completion required within one year of attendance at DLP programme	All DLP/DDLP in ELC/SAC services nationally
Step 5	Always Children First Designated Liaison Person Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3.5-hour face to face training programme ○ Must have completed all steps above prior to attendance 	All DLP/DDLP in ELC/SAC services nationally
Step 6 UNIVERSAL	Additional Supports – including signposting to Child Safeguarding Resource Doc	Supported by NCSP Trainers	All ELC/SAC Services



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Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy for Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Aged Childcare (SAC) Services – Outline and Information

From 2024, the National Child Safeguarding Programme (NCSP) recommend that ELC/SAC Child Safeguarding Training is completed over a five-year cycle, following the steps below. Each ELC and SAC service's Child Safeguarding Training and Information Procedure should inform how often staff members are required to complete universal eLearning Programmes.

STEP 1 The Tusla **Children First eLearning Programme** is a universal eLearning Programme that supports people from different backgrounds to recognise and respond to concerns they have about the protection and/or welfare of children. The key topics covered in the programme include:

- Recognising and reporting child abuse
- The role of mandated persons
- The responsibilities of organisations working with children to safeguard children
- The role of designated liaison persons

All participants on the ACF Child Safeguarding Training Programme delivered by NCSP trainers placed in CCCs and CNNG nationally must confirm their completion of this programme to trainers, prior to attending the training.

The NCSP recommends that all workers and volunteers in ELC/SAC services complete the Tusla Children First eLearning Programme regularly and this should be a requirement of each services Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy – a specified procedure under the Children First Act, 2015 for Relevant Services.



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STEP 2 Tulsa's **Mandated Person eLearning Module** provides information on, and an understanding of, the roles and responsibilities of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015. Schedule 2 of the Children First Act lists mandated persons. In ELC services, the following people are mandated persons:

- **Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.**
- **A person carrying on a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.**

All participants, who are mandated persons, on the ACF Child Safeguarding Training Programme delivered by NCSP trainers placed in CCCs and CNNG nationally must confirm their completion of the programme to trainers, prior to attending the training.

The NCSP recommends that all mandated persons in ELC services complete the Tulsa Mandated Person eLearning Module regularly and this should be a requirement of each services Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy – a specified procedure under the Children First Act, 2015. Further to this, a Procedure for Maintaining a List of Mandated Persons is also a specified procedure the Children First Act, 2015, which requires that Mandated Persons are made aware of their role and responsibilities and are provided with any training that may be required.

STEP 3 The NCSP **Always Children First foundation training** is a six-hour, face to face, tailored training for educators in ELC and SAC services nationally. The programme is a facilitated programme that centres around group activities, designed to encourage shared learning and peer interaction. The programme consists of 2 sessions – session 1 explores child centred practice and promoting the welfare of children and session 2 focuses on safeguarding in practice and protecting children from harm. This programme may be offered to all educators in ELC and SAC services, with priority for training places given to those in services who have never attended the training followed then by DLP/DDLP, mandated persons and all other workers who have not completed the programme in more than five years. The NCSP requires that there is a mix of educators from a mix of services on each programme delivered. Whole service training may only be facilitated with prior approval from the NCSP coordinator.



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STEP 4 DLP eLearning Module - The role of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in ELC and SAC Services in Ireland is central to ensuring that child safeguarding policies and procedures are followed and that concerns about the safety or welfare of a child are reported promptly to Tusla. The NCSP recommend that all ELC and SAC services have a DLP and Deputy DLP in place. Central to the role of the DLP is ensuring that the DLP and DDLP(s) are provided with the necessary training and information as required. Completion of this programme should be a requirement of each services Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy – a specified procedure under the Children First Act, 2015 for Relevant Services. Tusla’s DLP eLearning Module is a universally accessible and can be completed by all DLP/DDLP in all organisations. This is the first step in completing DLP Training which is a blended learning programme. Completion of this eLearning Module is a prerequisite of attendance at the Always Children First DLP Training. There is no certificate for completion of this module.

STEP 5 The **Always Children First DLP Training** is a 3.5-hour face to face training programme. Participants on DLP Training must complete the following training prior to attendance:

- Tusla Universal eLearning Programme (must be completed within 1 year of attendance) **(STEP 1)**
- Tusla Mandated Person eLearning Module (if relevant) **(STEP 2)**
- Tusla ACF Safeguarding Awareness Foundation Training for ELC/SAC Services (must be completed within last 5 years) **(STEP 3)**
- Tusla DLP eLearning Module (must be completed within 1 year of attendance) **(STEP 4)**

This programme is strictly limited to 16 participants and participants must not exceed this number. Minimum number of participants is 12. In the initial phase of this programme only one DLP from each service can access the face-to-face training. DLPs who attend this programme are expected to bring information received back to their services and share it with relevant workers.

STEP 6 ELC and SAC services are signposted to many **resources and supports** throughout their Child Safeguarding learning journey. The NCSP publication *Child Safeguarding Statement, Policy and Procedures; Guidance for Early Learning and Care and School Aged Child Childcare Services in Ireland* is a key document in supporting ELC and SAC services to develop a Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures that keep children safe from harm while availing of their services. These supports and resources are available on the [NCSP website](#).



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Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy for Childminders (Overview)

	Training/Information	Conditions	Target Audience
Step 1 UNIVERSAL	DCEDIY Pre-Registration Training	Led by DCEDIY/CMDOs. Child Safeguarding Unit 4	All Childminders
Step 2 UNIVERSAL	Children First eLearning Programme (Universal)	Completion required within one year of attendance at foundation programme	All Childminders and Emergency Cover (included in Pre-Registration Training)
Step 3 UNIVERSAL	Children First Mandated Person eLearning Module (Mandated Persons Only)	To be signposted in PRT, Child Safeguarding Roadmap for Childminders and ACF Foundation Training.	All Childminders who provide care to ELC aged children
Step 4	Always Children First Child Safeguarding Awareness Training (Childminding Specific)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6-hour face to face training programme ○ Min 12 – Max 20 Participants ○ Cofacilitation recommended 	All Childminders
Step 5	Additional Supports – including signposting to Child Safeguarding Resource Doc	Supported by CMDOs	All Childminders



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Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy for Childminding – Outline and Information

The National Child Safeguarding Programme recommend that foundation training for Childminders is completed every three years. Each Childminding Service's Child Safeguarding Training and Information Procedure should inform how often childminders should complete the Tusla universal eLearning Programmes.

STEP 1 This step is in development by DCEDIY.

STEP 2 The Tusla **Children First eLearning Programme** is a universal eLearning Programme that supports people from different backgrounds to recognise and respond to concerns they have about the protection and/or welfare of children. The key topics covered in the programme include:

- Recognising and reporting child abuse
- The role of mandated persons
- The responsibilities of organisations working with children to safeguard children
- The role of designated liaison persons

All participants on the ACF Child Safeguarding Training Programme for Childminders delivered by NCSP trainers must confirm their completion of the programme to trainers, prior to attending the training.

The NCSP recommends that all Childminders, Emergency Cover and family members of childminders complete the Tusla Children First eLearning Programme regularly and this should be a requirement of each Childminding service's Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy – a specified procedure under the Children First Act, 2015 for Relevant Services.



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STEP 3 The Tulsa **Mandated Person eLearning Module** provides information on and an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015. Schedule 2 of the Children First Act lists mandated persons. In ELC services, the following people are mandated persons:

- Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.
- A person carrying on a pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.

The NCSP recommends that all childminders who are mandated persons complete the Tulsa Mandated Person eLearning Module. This should be a requirement of each childminding services Child Safeguarding Training and Information Strategy – a specified procedure under the Children First Act, 2015 for Relevant Services. Further to this, a Procedure for Maintaining a List of Mandated Persons is also a specified procedure the Children First Act, 2015, which requires that Mandated Persons are made aware of their role and responsibilities and are provided with any training that may be required.

STEP 4 The NCSP **Always Children First foundation training** for Childminders is a six-hour, face to face, tailored training for Childminders nationally. The programme is a facilitated programme that centres around group activities, designed to encourage shared learning and peer interaction. The programme consists of 2 sessions – session 1 explores child centred practice and promoting the welfare of children and session 2 focuses on safeguarding in practice and protecting children from harm. This programme can be delivered in one day or over two, three-hour sessions. The programme may be offered to all Childminders and Emergency Cover. Programme may only be facilitated where there is a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 participants.

STEP 5 Childminding services are signposted to many **resources and supports** throughout their Child Safeguarding learning journey. The NCSP publication *Child Safeguarding Statement, Policy and Procedures; Guidance for Childminders in Ireland* is a key document in supporting Childminding Services to develop a Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures that keep children safe from harm while availing of their services. Many of these supports and resources are available on the [NCSP website](#).



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Child Safeguarding Statement, Policy and Procedure Implementation Workshop – Proposed Outline and Information

This workshop will be developed in 2024 and training strategy will be negotiated with training organisations once workshop is completed.

Child Safeguarding Statement, Policy and Procedure Implementation Workshops

- Tailored Workshops for ELC/SAC services
- Based on Child Safeguarding Resource Document – Child Safeguarding Statement, Policy and Procedure, Guidance for Early Learning and Care and School Aged Childcare Services in Ireland.
- Templated Specified Procedures
- Tailored Child Safeguarding Self Evaluation Tool for ELC/SAC services.