



Comhairle Contae **Lu**  
**Louth** County Council  
Subsidiary Safety Statement Ukrainian Refugee Provision

**Child/Vulnerable Adults' Safeguarding Statement for  
Ukrainian Refugee Accommodation  
at the Marist, Dundalk; St. Mary's Campus, Drumcar;  
Franciscan Friary, Drogheda; and the Dominican Priory,  
Drogheda**

This statement sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure as far as possible, that a child availing of Louth County Council Refugee Accommodation Services and a vulnerable adult at any of the named sites is safe from harm.

To be read in conjunction with the Louth County Council Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement. Prepared in accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act, 2015.

Version 2: 20/07/2023

## **Relevant Services Provided**

Louth County Council considers that we are a relevant service, under the Act.

### **1. Name of service being provided:**

Louth County Council temporary accommodation services for Ukrainian refugees.

### **2. Nature of service:**

Louth County Council facilitates the provision of shared accommodation services to Ukrainian individuals with Beneficiary of temporary protection due to the Ukraine crisis. This statement relates to the provision of accommodation in the Old Marist, Dundalk; St. Mary's Complex, Drumcar; Franciscan Friary, Drogheda; and the Dominican Priory, Drogheda.

Louth County Council Ukraine Response Directorate is responsible for beneficiaries of temporary protection assigned by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to temporary accommodation procured by Louth at the Old Marist, Dundalk; St. Mary's Complex, Drumcar; Franciscan Friary, Drogheda; and the Dominican Priory, Drogheda.

Louth County Council has procured the services of a qualified and experienced third party company to manage and support our accommodation centres. Together, Louth County Council and the company support residents in the above-named accommodation to integrate into the communities. The company implement its own Child/Vulnerable Adult's Safeguarding Statement and Policies and are obliged to notify Louth County Council of any child protection reports.

### **3. Principles to safeguard children/vulnerable adults from harm:**

Louth County Council is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children in the delivery of all our services and activities. The Council is committed to ensuring the well-being of vulnerable adults and recognises the importance of safeguarding them from abuse. The council understands the principles underpinning the national policy to Safeguard Vulnerable Persons: Respect for human rights, a person-centred approach to care and services; promotion of advocacy; respect for confidentiality; empowerment of individuals; and a collaborative approach.

Louth County Council is committed to;

Promoting general welfare, health development and safety of children and vulnerable adults;

Ensuring safe management procedures are in place for all staff and volunteers

including: robust recruitment, selection, supervision and support procedures;

Ensuring Designated Child Protection Liaison Officers are appointed and accessible;

Ensuring that the Local Authority has procedures in place to deal with an allegation of abuse made against an employee/volunteer;

Raising awareness in the organisation about potential risks to children/vulnerable adult's safety/welfare;

Developing procedures for responding to accidents and complaints;

Ensuring a Code of Behaviour is in place to provide employees and volunteers with clear guidance on how to treat children and young people and vulnerable adults in the organization;

Ensuring interagency cooperation with Tusla, St. John of God's Services; the HSE and other agencies involved in the protection of a child/vulnerable adult.

Louth County Council's child-centred approach means to:

Treat all children equally

Listen to and respect children

Involve children as appropriate

Provide encouragement, support and praise (regardless of ability)

Use appropriate language (verbal and physical)

Have fun and encourage a positive atmosphere

Offer constructive criticism when needed

Treat all children as individuals

Respect a child's personal space

Use age-appropriate teaching aids

Lead by example

Be aware of child time limitations e.g. school/exams when scheduling activities

Create an atmosphere of trust

Be aware of the *Equal Status Act 2000-2015* which relates to discrimination based on grounds of Gender, Civil Status, Family Status, Age, Race, Religion, Disability, Sexual Orientation, and Membership of the Traveller Community.

#### 4. Risk Assessment

Risk	Risk Measure			Risk Owner	Procedure	Date for Implementation	Further Action
	Likelihood 1-5	Impact 1-5	Risk Level (likelihood x Impact)				
Refugees and SJOG residents may witness an incident involving adults exhibiting challenging behaviors or who are substance affected.	2	4	8	LCC and Management Service company	Staff trained in managing difficult behavior. Management Service company to investigate and manage incidents of anti-social behavior which is impacting on residents in the Marist, St. Mary's Complex, Drumcar, Franciscan Friary and the Dominican Priory.	Immediately	House Rules clearly state expected behaviour and outcome of non compliance
SJOGs residents/ Ukrainian Refugees may be subject to harm from residents of the refugee accommodation	3	4	12	LCC and Management Service company, DCEDIY.	Clearly defined boundaries for all occupants of the refugee accommodation. Clear communication as to expectations of their behaviour and interaction with the residents of SJOGs. Clear protocol following any alleged incidents.	Immediately	Protocol in place and reviewed regularly

Child may be subject to harm from staff member/ volunteer/ relief staff	1	4	4	LCC and Management Service company	Comprehensive recruitment and vetting process in place. Avoid being alone with a child or vulnerable adult and ensure a second person is to hand. Code of Conduct for all staff.	Immediately	
Child may be witness to/at risk due to domestic violence whilst in the refugee accommodation	2	4	8	LCC and Management Service company	Child safeguarding procedures to be followed.	Immediately	
Use of images of children	1	4	4	LCC and Management Service company	Photo consent is sought in advance from parents and/or schools for use of images in publications or online.	Immediately	
A child may witness an incident involving individuals exhibiting challenging behaviour or who are substance affected	2	4	8	LCC and Management Service company	Staff trained in managing difficult behaviour. LCC and Management Service company to investigate incidents of anti-social behaviour which is impacting on SJOG residents/Ukrainian refugees. Security onsite on larger accommodation sites.	Immediately	
Children/	2	4	8	LCC and	Adequate supervision; sign in	Immediately	

refugee residents may be subject to harm from visitors or contractors to the refugee accommodation				Management Service company	procedures; staff and accommodation providers to be aware of safeguarding procedures and responsibilities under Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017).		

## 5. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statements have been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), 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 and vulnerable adults while they are residing in the refugee accommodation in Drumcar:

Louth County Council Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement.

Louth County Council's Policy and Procedure for the protection and safeguarding of children.

Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.

Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.

Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons and Deputy Liaison Officers

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## 6. Reporting a Concern

Anyone can report a concern about a child or vulnerable adult. If you have any concerns about a child, you should report it to Tusla. A report can be made in person, by telephone on (046) 9098500 or in writing. Any member of the public who has a concern about a child can contact the Tusla local social work duty service in the area where the child lives for advice about reporting your concerns.

If you have any concerns about a vulnerable adult, you should report it to [safeguarding.cho8@hse.ie](mailto:safeguarding.cho8@hse.ie) or contact 01 6914632.

In the event of any emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger and you cannot get in contact with Tusla, you should contact An Garda Síochána on 999.

If a child is in danger outside office hours you can contact the An Garda Síochána.

If you require any further information on Louth County Council Child and Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, please contact the Deputy Child Protection Liaison Officer, Acting Director of Service Ukrainian Response – Yvonne O'Brien or, Mandated Persons – Arja Cullen, Social Worker and Danielle McMahon, Social Worker.

Joe McGuinness, Director of Corporate Services, Louth County Council is the Child Protection Liaison Officer.

Further information on Child Protection - [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

## **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Specific Service Child/Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and vulnerable adults safe from harm while residing in refugee accommodation.

This statement can be reviewed as required.

Signed: 

Date: 20<sup>TH</sup> July 2023