



# Derrynane Inshore Rescue CLG

## Child Safeguarding Policy

The Children First Act 2015 requires organisations that are providers of 'relevant services' to publish a Child Safeguarding Statement (Schedule 1 of the Act provides a list of work or activities that constitute a 'relevant service').

This policy details the relevant services provided by the DERRYNANE INSHORE RESCUE CLG ("DIR") volunteers to children and the principles and procedures in place to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of these services is safe from harm. This Child Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, in line with DIR's good governance strategy & commitment and will be reaffirmed or amended accordingly in line with best practice.

This policy is available to all DIR volunteers and interested parties, and can be located on our website at <http://www.derrynaneinshorerescue.com/>. Alternatively you may request a copy by emailing the Company Secretary at [Derrynanecrbi@gmail.com](mailto:Derrynanecrbi@gmail.com).

### Relevant Services

In preparing this Child Safeguarding Policy, DIR undertook a review of all services provided to identify those that fall under the definition of a relevant service as defined by the Children First Act 2015. Four services were identified, and a risk assessment of each service was undertaken. This policy details the nature of these services, the principles and procedures in place to safeguard children from harm while availing of these services, and the risk assessment for each.

The services identified were:

1. DIR Search and Rescue
2. DIR Volunteer School Visits
3. Children's groups visits to DIR Unit building
4. DIR volunteer visits to children's group buildings.

### 1. DIR Search and Rescue

DIR has primarily a search and rescue operation. They are equipped and have the local knowledge to safely and effectively undertake coastal searches and rescue. Their primary role is in response to a maritime connected incident. This service falls under the relevant service outlined in Schedule 1.4.

*Any work or activity which consists of treatment (including assessment which may lead to treatment), therapy or counselling provided to a child.*

## Principles in place to safeguard children from harm

The DIR is committed to safeguarding children. It expects all of its volunteers to share this commitment. The DIR recognises its responsibility for safeguarding children whilst conducting search and rescue and recognises that treatment (including assessment which may lead to treatment) may be required upon location of a missing or injured child. It aims to create a safe environment for children whilst carrying out its search and rescue function, and is committed to ensuring their safety and welfare at all times in accordance with the following documents:

- Children First Act 2015
- "Children First - National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children"(IRCG of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017)
- "Our Duty to Care - The Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People" (IRCG of Health and Children, 2002).

The DIR Volunteer Code of Conduct and DIR Standard Operating Procedures are also in place.

<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk</b>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to the child	Code of Conduct in place Volunteer recruitment may include Garda vetting Volunteer training Standard operating procedures
Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	Standard operating procedures includes reporting procedure Training and support available to volunteers
Risk that procedures do not reflect Children First Guidance 2017	Procedures reviewed and updated to take account of Children First and new guidance

## 2 DIR volunteer school visits

The DIR volunteers school visit programme, in conjunction with the school Principle, constitute an important part of the unit's annual water safety programme and accident prevention strategy. This service falls under the relevant service outlined in Schedule 1, 5(a):

*Any work or activity which consists of the provision of educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children.*

### ***Principles in place to safeguard children from harm***

DIR is committed to protecting and facilitating the full participation of children in water safety programmes. It aims to create a safe environment for children during the unit's volunteer school visits and, in conjunction with the school Principle, is committed to ensuring their safety and welfare at all times in accordance with the following documents.

- Children First Act 2015
- "Children First - National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children" (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017)
- "Our Duty to Care - The Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People" (Department of Health and Children, 2002).

DIR volunteer Code of Conduct and DIR Standard Operating Procedures are also in place.

**Risk Assessment**

The DIR has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of this service. The risks identified are listed below, along with procedures in place for managing these risks.

<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk</b>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a/the child	Code of Conduct in place Volunteer recruitment may include Garda Vetting Volunteer training Standard operating procedures
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> or concern not being recognised or reported	Standard operating procedures includes reporting procedure Training and support available to volunteers
Risk that procedures do not reflect Children First Guidance 2017	Procedures reviewed and updated to take account of Children First and new guidance

**3 Children’s groups visits’ to DIR Unit building**

The DIR volunteers arrange visits by local children’s groups to the DIR unit building on occasion as part of the unit’s community familiarisation and educational strategy. This service falls under the relevant service outlined in Schedule 1, 5(a):

*Any work or activity which consists of the provision of educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children.*

**Principles in place to safeguard children from harm**

The DIR is committed to protecting and facilitating the participation of children in water activities. It aims to create a safe environment for children during DIR unit building visits and, in conjunction with the children’s group adult leaders, is committed to ensuring their safety and welfare at all times in accordance with the following documents.

- Children First Act 2015
- "Children First - National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children" (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017)
- "Our Duty to Care - The Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People" (Department of Health and Children, 2002).

DIR volunteer Code of Conduct and DIR Standard Operating Procedures are also in place.

**Risk Assessment**

The DIR has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of this service. The risks identified are listed below, along with procedures in place for managing these risks.

<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk</b>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to the child	Code of Conduct in place Volunteer recruitment may include Garda Vetting Volunteer training Standard operating procedures

Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	Standard operating procedures includes reporting procedure Training and support available to volunteers
Risk that procedures do not reflect Children First Guidance 2017	Procedures reviewed and updated to take account of Children First and new guidance

#### 4 DIR volunteer visits to Children's groups

The DIR volunteers may on occasion make visits to local children's groups on occasion as part of the Unit's water safety programme and accident prevention strategy. This service falls under the relevant service outlined in Schedule 1, 5(a):

*Any work or activity which consists of the provision of educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children.*

#### **Principles in place to safeguard children from harm**

The DIR is committed to protecting and facilitating the full participation of children in water programmes. It aims to create a safe environment for children during DIR volunteer children's group visits and, in conjunction with the children's group adult leaders, is committed to ensuring their safety and welfare at all times in accordance with the following documents.

- Children First Act 2015
- "Children First - National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children" (IRCG of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017)
- "Our Duty to Care - The Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children and Young People" (IRCG of Health and Children, 2002).

DIR volunteer Code of Conduct and DIR Standard Operating Procedures are also in place.

#### **Risk Assessment**

The DIR has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of this service. The risks identified are listed below, along with procedures in place for managing these risks.

<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk</b>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to the child	Code of Conduct in place Volunteer recruitment may include Garda vetting Volunteer training Standard operating procedures
Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	Standard operating procedures includes reporting procedure Training and support available to volunteers
Risk that procedures do not reflect Children First Guidance 2017	Procedures reviewed and updated to take account of Children First and new guidance

#### **Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Policy has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for the management of allegations of harm by an DIR volunteer of a young person/child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of DIR volunteers
- Provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm

### **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The DIR is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Policy and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, in line with DIR's good governance strategy & commitment and will be reaffirmed or amended accordingly in line with best practice.

Signed:

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Jerry Clifford,  
Chairperson,  
Derrynane Inshore Rescue CLG.

<sup>1</sup> **Harm** is defined in the Children First Act 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, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.