



Respond is committed to promoting the highest standards of child protection in line with 'Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children' (2017). To this end we have recently updated our child protection policy '**Making our Communities Safe for Children**'.

This policy is implemented within the organisation and being promoted on all of our family estates and homelessness services. Copies of the policy are available in each Respond Community Building, or from our Resident Support Staff. We seek the support of our residents in promoting this policy on all of our estates and services.

Our Child Protection and Welfare Policy aims to:

- Promote the protection and welfare of children and young people within the organisation and on our estates.
- Develop greater awareness of child welfare issues amongst our staff, volunteers and residents.
- Provide clear guidelines for staff and volunteers on behaviour that protects children, staff and volunteers.

Our Child Protection and Welfare Policy sets out:

- What might be a child protection or welfare concern?
- Steps to be followed by staff if they become aware of a child welfare concern. All staff must pass on any child welfare concern to the Respond Designated Liaison Person (DLP). The DLP will then decide if the concern warrants reporting to Túsla.
- Procedures to be followed if allegations are made against Respond staff or volunteers.
- Respond's internal child protection responsibilities and structures.
- Good practice guidelines for working with children and young people.
- Contact details for local Túsla Children and Family Services.

In keeping with our Child Protection and Welfare Policy, Respond staff will promote good practice in working with children on our estates and services. This includes:

- Ensuring that any volunteers working with children are appropriately Garda Vetted.
- Sourcing child protection training for volunteers or residents as appropriate.
- Requiring parental consent forms for children's participation in activities such as trips, outings, workshops, etc.
- Carrying out Risk Assessments for any event or activity that involves children or young people. This is already standard practice and is an important planning tool for any event or activity.

Respond welcomes any comments or suggestions on how we can make our estates and services a safe and positive environment for children and young people. We look forward to working with our residents in achieving this.