



WESTERN CARE ASSOCIATION

Child Safeguarding Statement

January 2026

1. WESTERN CARE ASSOCIATION'S CHILD SAFEGAURDING STATEMENT

Western Care Association exists to empower people with a wide range of learning and associated disabilities in Co. Mayo, to live full and satisfied lives as equal citizens.

The organisation has a Service Level Agreement with the Health Service Executive on whose behalf it provides supports and services to people with intellectual disabilities in Co. Mayo.

The Association is a voluntary (non-statutory) organisation.

Western Care Association is a company limited by guarantee and a Registered Charity with a Head Office at John Moore Road, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland (094) 9025133.

2. NATURE OF SERVICE AND PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

Western Care Association exists to empower and support children and young people with a wide range of learning and associated disabilities to access appropriate supports, and opportunities to learn and develop their potential, and to live as equal citizens.

Western Care Association supports children in a variety of ways. These services include Home Share, Centre Based Respite, Outreach Respite and Family Support with associated therapeutic supports i.e. Behavioural Support and Social Work.

Western Care Association believes in the principles of Person and Family Centred practice which recognises the natural authority of the family and the value of healthy family relationships. Where there is a concern about the protection and welfare of the child in the family, Western Care Association places the welfare of the child first.

Western Care Association is committed to a practice which protects children from harm. The principle that the welfare of the child is of paramount importance is enshrined in this statement and all policies, practices and procedures relating to children receiving supports from Western Care Association. Western Care Association acknowledges the rights of children to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration with regard to important events in their lives.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

An assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of services has been carried out.

Below is a list of the areas of identified risks and the list of procedures for managing these risks. This Child Safeguarding Statement is based on the Child Safeguarding Statement Secondary Risk Assessment which is a live document held by the social work department and reviewed biannually or sooner if required.

Risk Category	Main procedures and controls in place to manage risk identified
1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member, Home Sharer, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HSE Trust in Care Policy - WCA Guidance for Implementing Trust In Care Policy - WCA Child Safeguarding Policy, Practice & Procedure - HSE Land An Introduction to Children First Training - List of Mandated Persons held by HR - WCA Face to Face Children First Training - Code of Conduct for Western Care Employees - WCA Listening and responding to people Policy - Procedure for the Resolution of Concerns and Complaints to Western Care Association - Rights of Adults and Children using Western Care Services Policy - WCA Risk Management Policy - WCA Regulation for Person Supported Monies Policy - WCA Restrictive Practice Policy - Home share assessment process and associated training - WCA Garda Vetting Procedure - WCA Managing Investigations Procedure - WCA Incident Reporting Procedure - WCA Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy For Service Users - Joint working protocol between WCA and Tusla

<p>2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WCA Child Safeguarding Policy, Practice & Procedure - HSELand An Introduction to Children First Training - List of Mandated Persons held by HR - WCA Face to Face Children First Training - WCA Listening and responding to people Policy - WCA Visitors Policy - WCA Developing Volunteer Networks Procedure - WCA Missing Person Procedure - Rights of Adults and Children using Western Care Services Policy - WCA Risk Management Policy - WCA Regulation for Person Supported Monies Policy - WCA Individual Planning – Children’s Respite - WCA Communication Profile (IP) - Home share assessment process and associated training - WCA Incident Reporting Procedure - WCA Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy For Service Users - Joint working protocol between WCA and Tusla
<p>3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member, Home Sharer, volunteer or student.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HSE Trust in Care Policy - WCA Guidance for Implementing Trust In Care Policy - WCA Child Safeguarding Policy, Practice & Procedure - HSELand An Introduction to Children First Training - List of Mandated Persons held by HR - WCA Face to Face Children First Training - Code of Conduct for Western Care Employees - WCA Listening and responding to people Policy - Procedure for the Resolution of Concerns and Complaints to Western Care Association - WCA Supervisory Support Policy - Rights of Adults and Children using Western Care Services Policy - WCA Risk Management Policy - WCA Regulation for Person Supported Monies Policy - WCA Communication Profile (IP)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WCA Restrictive Practice Policy - Home share assessment process and associated training - Central Induction Training - WCA Induction Policy - WCA Disciplinary Procedure - WCA Garda Vetting Procedure - WCA Managing Investigations Procedure - WCA Incident Reporting Procedure - Regular Audits from HIQA and HSA - Service Level Agreement with the HSE - Joint working protocol between WCA and Tusla <p>All staff working directly with children avail of children first online training as well as face to face training. All other staff who work with adults in the organisation are also required to complete the children first online training as we recognise that these staff may also come into contact with children while supporting adults. All staff are aware of the organisations zero tolerance approach to child safeguarding and are therefore aware of the need to report any concerns immediately.</p>
<p>4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HSE Trust in Care Policy - WCA Guidance for Implementing Trust In Care Policy - WCA Child Safeguarding Policy, Practice & Procedure - HSELand An Introduction to Children First Training - WCA Face to Face Children First Training - WCA Listening and responding to people Policy - WCA Personal/Intimate Care Policy - Rights of Adults and Children using Western Care Services Policy - WCA Accessible Rights Policy - WCA Children’s Rights Checklist - Education on Rights at resident’s meetings - Social Stories on Rights - WCA Risk Management Policy - WCA Regulation for Person Supported Monies Policy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WCA Access to Training and Development for People Using Services - WCA Individual Planning – Children’s Respite - WCA Communication Profile (IP) - WCA Restrictive Practice Policy - Home share assessment process and associated training - Central Induction Training - WCA Incident Reporting Procedure - WCA Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy For Service Users - Regular Audits from HIQA and HAS - Service Level Agreement with the HSE - Joint working protocol between WCA and Tusla
<p>5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance or policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HSE Trust in Care Policy - WCA Guidance for Implementing Trust In Care Policy - WCA Child Safeguarding Policy, Practice & Procedure - HSE Land An Introduction to Children First Training - List of Mandated Persons held by HR - WCA Face to Face Children First Training - Code of Conduct for Western Care Employees - Procedure for the Resolution of Concerns and Complaints to Western Care Association - WCA Protected Disclosures of Information in the Workplace - WCA Supervisory Support Policy - Rights of Adults and Children using Western Care Services Policy - WCA Accessible Rights Policy - WCA Children’s Rights Checklist - Education on Rights at resident’s meetings - Social Stories on Rights - WCA Individual Planning – Children’s Respite - Home share assessment process and associated training - Central Induction Training - WCA Managing Investigations Procedure - WCA Incident Reporting Procedure

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WCA Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy For Service Users - Regular Audits from HIQA and HAS - Service Level Agreement with the HSE - Joint working protocol between WCA and Tusla
<p>6. Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect Safely Trainer and resources available via the social the work department (online safety) - Resident’s meetings to discuss online safety as a topic - Plan to engage with children’s parents and guardians re safe online activity. - WCA Child Safeguarding Policy, Practice & Procedure - HSELand An Introduction to Children First Training - WCA Face to Face Children First Training - Code of Conduct for Western Care Employees - WCA Listening and responding to people Policy - Procedure for the Resolution of Concerns and Complaints to Western Care Association - WCA Records Management Policy for Persons we Support and Staff - WCA Data Protection Policy - Rights of Adults and Children using Western Care Services Policy - WCA Accessible Rights Policy - WCA Children’s Rights Checklist - Education on Rights at resident’s meetings - Social Stories on Rights - WCA Risk Management Policy - WCA Regulation for Person Supported Monies Policy - WCA Access to Training and Development for People Using Services - WCA Policy on the Use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Systems - WCA Individual Planning – Children’s Respite - WCA Communication Profile (IP) - WCA Incident Reporting Procedure - WCA Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy For Service Users

4. Procedures

Western Care Association Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available at www.westerncare.com and are available on request. This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), HSE Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Guidance issued by Tusla – Child and Family Agency.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Western Care Association is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be **reviewed in January 2028** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

FOR QUERIES CONTACT:

Relevant Persons:

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Signed:- _____ (Head of Operations)

Chief Executive Officer, Western Care Association

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