

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ref No. YP-032-PR

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Owner:	Deputy Director
Department	Care
Document Developed by	Deputy Director CRPF Project Lead Designated Liaison Person H&S Officer
Approved by:	Director
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For Review:	August 2026

1. Introduction

1.1. Name of Service

Oberstown Children Detention Campus

1.2. Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Oberstown Children Detention Campus (Oberstown) is a Place of Detention for young persons referred by a Court aged from 12 to 18 years. It is the principal aim of Oberstown Children Detention Campus under s 158 of the Children Act 2001 to provide appropriate educational and training programmes for children referred to the Campus by a Court and to promote their reintegration into society as persons who are capable of making a positive and productive contribution to society.

1.3. Oberstown's principles to safeguard young people from harm are:

- Oberstown is committed to safeguarding the young people who avail of our services.
- The welfare of young people availing of our service is paramount.
- Oberstown is committed to child-centred practice in all our work with young people.
- We believe young people have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- Taking account of their age and level of understanding, young people should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that affect their lives.
- Oberstown believes in supporting parents/guardians and professionals to keep young people safe from harm.
- Oberstown strives to work in partnership with parents/guardians and other professionals to keep young people safe from harm.
- Parent's/guardians have a right to respect and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family
- Child safeguarding is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Oberstown will work with other agencies and professional in the best interests of the young people in our service.
- Every young person who avails of our service should be treated with respect and dignity.
- These principles will be achieved by having due regard to young people's health, safety, welfare, interests; providing them with proper care, guidance and supervision; preserving and developing young people's relationships with their families; exercising proper moral and disciplinary influences on young people and recognising their personal, cultural and linguistic identity .
- Oberstown Children Detention Campus provides care in accordance with our CEHOP model.

2. Risk Assessment

Oberstown has a dedicated health and safety team, and the responsibility for risk management is currently shared with the Senior Management Team. A Campus Corporate Risk Register and a Campus Operational Risk Register is maintained and reviewed on a regular basis by the SMT and the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Management. The risks are assessed using a 5 x 5 risk assessment matrix and the registers include mitigation strategies/management controls in place to address these risks.

2.1. Identified Risks

Oberstown has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a young person while availing of our service. This section outlines a list of amalgamated areas of risk identified and the associated procedures for managing these risks. Oberstown's Risk Management Policy HS-002 and our Children's Rights Policy Framework support the identification and management of strategic and specific risks in support of our Child Safeguarding Statement.

Risk Identified		Procedures and practices in place to manage risk
1.	Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff	Recruitment selection policy and procedures in situ Staff procedure for reporting child protection and welfare concerns Code of Behaviour as outlined in Employee Handbook Child Safeguarding Statement Assigned Designated Liaison Person's
2.	Risk of harm by a visitor to the service	Protocols and procedures in situ around visits and visitors to the campus Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery
3.	Risk of harm by another child in the service	Round-the-clock monitoring of young people by frontline staff Monitoring using CCTV technology Regular risk assessments undertaken around the structures, routines and interactions of young people on the campus Anti-bullying protocols in situ
4.	Non-compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children	Children First governance structures in situ Oberstown undertake quality and risk assessment of internal and external services HR maintain a list of mandated persons Regular review of the organisation undertaken by external agencies including HIQA and CPT

5.	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported by Oberstown staff	<p>Staff information and supervision procedure</p> <p>Clear monitoring and oversight structures by DLP and Director in situ</p> <p>Reporting procedure in situ</p> <p>Mandatory Children First training</p>
6.	Risk of harm to a child through use of ICT and social media and inappropriate use of photography and imagery	<p>ICT acceptable use policy</p> <p>Policy and procedures in situ around the taking of photographs</p> <p>Communication Officer in situ</p> <p>Regular consultation undertaken with external service provider around data protection for young people</p> <p>Regular searches undertaken to mitigate against possession of mobile phone devices</p>
7.	Risk of suicide/self-harm	<p>The Assessment Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS) Team and The National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) provide therapeutic support</p> <p>Staff are trained in STORMV4</p> <p>Keyworking, behaviour support plans, individual recovery programmes and information gathering procedures are integral to risk management and mitigation within the service</p> <p>Procedures and training around the use of ligature cutters in situ</p> <p>Routine practice includes regular environmental searches and round-the-clock monitoring of young people</p> <p>Residential units have the use of Protection Rooms and refractory materials should the need arise</p>
8.	Medical emergency	<p>Campus medical team on site</p> <p>Staff trained in First Aid</p> <p>Resuscitation equipment including defibrillators on site</p> <p>Staff equipped with personal alarms and radios</p>
9.	Physical Assault/Violence	<p>Frontline staff trained in CPI Safety Intervention</p> <p>Staff trained in child protection and safeguarding</p> <p>Frontline staff equipped with personal alarms and radios</p> <p>Protocols around the transport of young people using Cellular and other vehicles</p> <p>transporting protocols</p>

		<p>Monitoring using CCTV technology</p> <p>Regular risk assessment around the structures, routines and interactions of young people on the campus</p> <p>Routine search protocols to reduce the risk of contraband</p> <p>Internal sharing of information across relevant professionals and with caregivers</p> <p>Recording of incidents using IAA (Incidents, Accidents & Assaults) Notifications</p> <p>Critical Incident Management Training.</p>
10.	Physical Restraint	<p>Frontline staff trained in CPI Safety Intervention</p> <p>Staff trained in child protection and safeguarding</p> <p>Frontline staff equipped with personal alarms and radios</p> <p>Monitoring using CCTV technology</p> <p>Keyworking, behaviour support plans, individual recovery programmes</p> <p>Reviews of CPI Safety Intervention undertaken by CPI Safety Intervention Instructors and DLP for Child Protection as appropriate</p> <p>Internal sharing of information across relevant professionals and with caregivers</p> <p>Recording of incidents using IAA (Incidents, Accidents & Assaults) Notifications</p> <p>Critical Incident Management Training.</p> <p>Governance procedures in situ around the monitoring and oversight of restrictive practices</p>
11.	Psychological Harm	<p>The Assessment Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS) Team and The National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) provide therapeutic support</p> <p>Staff are trained in STORMV4</p> <p>Keyworking, behaviour support plans, individual recovery programmes and information gathering procedures are integral to risk management and mitigation within the service</p> <p>Routine practice includes round-the-clock monitoring of young people</p> <p>Monitoring using CCTV technology</p>
12.	Mental Health Issues	<p>The Assessment Consultation and Therapy Service (ACTS) Team and The National Forensic Mental</p>

		<p>Health Service (NFMHS) provide therapeutic support</p> <p>Staff are trained in STORMV4</p> <p>Keyworking, behaviour support plans, individual recovery programmes and information gathering procedures are integral to risk management and mitigation within the service</p> <p>Routine practice includes round-the-clock monitoring of young people</p> <p>Monitoring using CCTV technology</p>
13.	Drugs Contraband	<p>Regular urinalysis is undertaken as part of admission and re-admission to procedures</p> <p>All off-campus trips undergo risk assessment to mitigate against contraband</p> <p>Medical Team available to assess young people under the influence of substances and inform monitoring requirements by frontline staff</p> <p>An X-ray scanner is available for screening of contraband</p> <p>Protocol around visits and screening of same</p> <p>Visitors who supply contraband are reported to An Garda Síochána</p> <p>Monitoring of common areas and visits using CCTV technology</p>
14.	External threat	<p>All visits and external trips are risk assessed to mitigate against harm</p> <p>Protocols in situ around visits with young people and visitors to the campus</p> <p>Regular risk assessments undertaken around unit structures, routines and interactions of young people</p> <p>Choice and use of (cellular) vehicles informed by risk assessment</p> <p>Close liaison with An Garda Síochána around information sharing in instances of external threats/threat to life</p>
15.	Accidental Injury	<p>Health & Safety team provide monitoring and oversight of environment</p> <p>Campus medical team available to assist as required</p> <p>Frontline staff trained in First Aid & use of Defibrillator</p>

		<p>Resuscitation equipment and First Aid Kits available across the campus</p> <p>Regular review undertaken by Health & safety team of incidents, accidents and injuries across the campus</p> <p>Comprehensive Fire Prevention Systems and Procedures in situ</p>
16.	Internet Use	<p>Young person's access to the internet is limited and done so only under strict supervision</p> <p>No access to social media is permitted</p> <p>Young persons are not allowed access to personal communication devices</p>

3. Policies and Procedures

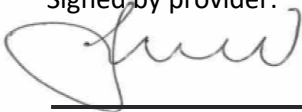
The Oberstown Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Oberstown is a "Relevant Service" under Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015.
- See 158 of the Children Act, 2001.
- S 180 of the Children Act, 2001.
- <http://www.stormskillstraining.com/>
- Children Rights Policy Framework
- Safeguarding procedure
- Care procedures
- Complaints procedure
- Medical procedures
- Single separation procedure
- Medication management policy & procedure
- Information management policy
- Handcuff procedure
- CCTV Policy
- CDSU Garda Vetting Policy and Procedures
- Fire Safety Policy and Procedures
- Young persons also have access to EPIC advocacy service and the Ombudsman for Children who visit the campus regularly
- A full time Advocacy Officer is available to support all young persons.

4. Implementation

Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed in March 2024 and is due for review on 31st March 2026, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed by provider:



Damien Heron, Director

For queries, please contact Brian Hogan, Deputy Director and Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

Revision History

Version	Date of Issue	Description of Change	Owner
4	March 2024	Section 1.3 added Section 2.1 changed Section 3 changed	Deputy Director
5	August 2024	Section 2	Deputy Director