



Re: Children First Awareness Week —15 to 21 September 2025

“We are Children First”

Dear Organisation,

On behalf of the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group, I am writing to you, as a provider of a relevant service under the Children First Act 2015, to inform you that the third National Children First Awareness Week (CFAW) will take place from September 15th –21st 2025. This national campaign aims to raise awareness of Children First and remind all of us— including organisations like yours that work with children and young people – of our shared responsibility to protect and safeguard children and young people in our communities.

A Renewed Focus on Parents and Guardians

This year, the campaign will expand its reach by actively encouraging parents, guardians, and other responsible adults to engage with the organisations their children are involved in. While the statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 remain central, particularly the requirement for a Child Safeguarding Statement supported by robust policies and procedures, the 2025 campaign places additional emphasis on fostering a culture of openness, transparency and proactive communication of safeguarding measures within organisations.

It is essential that parents and guardians feel comfortable and supported to ask questions, raise concerns, and seek assurances about the safeguarding measures in place in your organisation. A culture of openness where questions are encouraged and concerns are handled appropriately will support better implementation of Children First and create safer environments for children.

Be Prepared for Questions

As part of CFAW 2025, parents and guardians will be encouraged to speak with organisations directly. They will be advised to become informed of what safeguarding measures are — and prompted to ask your organisation:

- Can you tell me what child safeguarding measures you have in place in your organisation to keep my child safe?
- Do you have a Child Safeguarding Statement and child safeguarding policies and procedures in place?
- Do you have a Code of Behaviour / Conduct to explain to me how you work safely with my child?



- Are your staff and volunteers recruited appropriately, including having been Garda-vetted and supported with training?
- Who is the Designated Liaison Person (or equivalent) and how can I talk to them?
- What action/follow up will your organisation take:
 - If I have a child safeguarding concern?
 - If I want to give feedback on my child's experience, whether good or bad?
 - To provide assurances to parents that all children will be treated equally and included?
 - To ensure that all your staff and volunteers know they are responsible for implementing your organisation's safeguarding measures?

We are giving you advance notice so that you can prepare. The success of this campaign depends not only on public awareness, but also on the readiness of all of us working together to ensure ongoing compliance with the requirements of Children First and to engage openly on child safeguarding matters.

What You Should Do Now

Prepare your organisation! Think about how you can demonstrate what you are doing to keep children safe while in your organisation

We strongly urge you to:

- Ensure that your Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Procedures are up to date, visible, and easily accessible.
- Ensure that your organisation and staff/volunteers are implementing your child safeguarding policies and procedures across all the services you provide.
- Proactively share your safeguarding measures and promote a culture that invites feedback and values transparency.
- Update your website and digital media so that parents can easily find information about your organisation, your safeguarding measures and your relevant contacts.
- Explain to parents how they can escalate complaints and concerns about practice matters to relevant bodies.
- Explain to parents how child protection or welfare concerns are reported to Tusla, putting the welfare of the child first.



Prepare your staff and volunteers:

- Staff and volunteers need to know your procedures and how to put them into practice.
- Equip staff and volunteers to respond confidently to safeguarding concerns and practice matter questions from parents and guardians.

Our shared goal is a culture where child safeguarding is embedded, understood, and fully implemented and where child protection is everyone's responsibility.

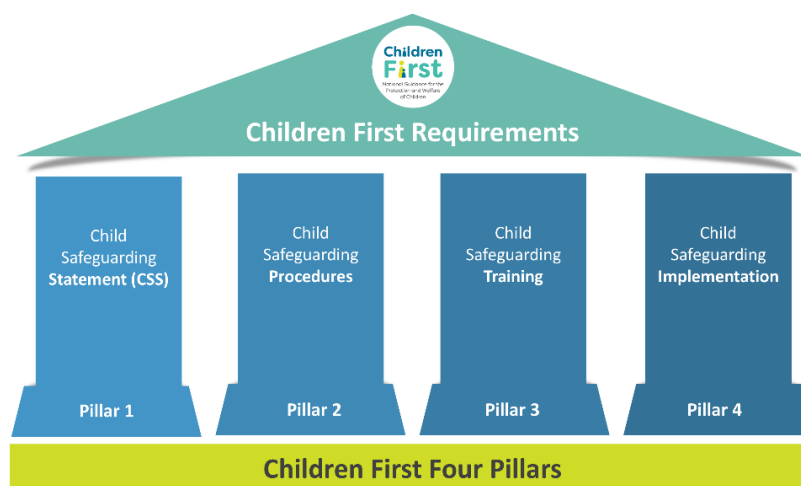
Guidance material

The obligations on providers of relevant services under Children First are set out in detail under [*Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children \(2017\)*](#).

Tusla's Children First Information and Advice Service (CFIAS) has also developed a suite of resources to support implementation of Children First, including its [*Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*](#)

For reference, the CFIAS has developed a Children First Governance Framework which sets out the Four Pillars of Good Governance for Children First within organisations as follows:

Children First Governance Framework





Play Your Part and Put Children First

While Tulsa can provide guidance, each provider of a relevant service holds the responsibility for ensuring it is compliant with and actively implementing Children First. Children First Awareness Week 2025 is an opportunity for us all to play our part in demonstrating our ongoing commitment to safeguarding children.

We look forward to your active participation and continued partnership in keeping children safe.

Yours sincerely,

**Lara Hynes,
Chair,
Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group**