

Meath Accessible Transport Project CLG Policies and Procedures

Title: 4.0.0 Child Safeguarding Statement

Issue No: 5

Policy created and 1st approval date: October 2014

This Policy has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Any amendments to this policy or related forms (if applicable) can be submitted by any Board Member, member of staff or volunteer. These should be submitted to the Manager or the Board of Directors for approval.

Policies are amended and updated in line with Health and Safety, financial, legal and fiduciary requirements and operational and strategic changes. Where appropriate, External experts may be consulted.

Child Safeguarding Statement

Note: This statement has been brought together by referencing the following documents:

- *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*
- *Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement (www.tusla.ie)*
- *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice (www.tusla.ie)*

1. **Flexibus and Local Link provide transport for children and vulnerable adults.**
2. Flexibus and Local Link both provide transport to passengers of all ages. As part of our transport offerings, there are many primary school passengers, secondary school passengers, and vulnerable passengers (both passengers with an intellectual disability and physical disability) who use our transport. We are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
3. **Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

1

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	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Children are being left home with no adults there to meet them or child being locked out of the house.	Driver has contact details for parents. Procedure in place to stay with child as far as is practicable.
2	Bullying while travelling on the bus	Each child and their parents / guardians before starting transport on the bus is made aware of the company policy "4.3.2 Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure While Travelling on the Bus"
3	Health issues whilst travelling	Company policy for all staff to be trained in handling health issues, certified in first aid inclusive of seizure response (policy 4.1.4)
4	A child could be harmed by another service user, or while availing of other services	Company policy for all transport staff to be mandatory trained in recognising signs of abuse in conjunction with children first with reporting policy in place (see section 5) (policy 4.2.4)
5	Behavioural issues that could arise and become a risk of safety in transport	Policy in place for internal risk assessment to avail of transport assistant being put in place. all staff are mandatory trained in handling issues arising from behavioural incidents.

4. Procedures

Our 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*.

All staff are trained by using the Online Training provided by Tusla. This is called Childrens First.

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

2

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- **4.3.4 Anti-Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure** deals with the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- **4.8.9 Equal Opportunities, Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure** deals with the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children; this sits inline with **4.1.3 Garda Vetting Policy and Procedure**
- **4.1.4 Training and Development policy** deals with the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Flexibus follow the process and procedure in place by Tusla for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

Within the company, the Manager is the Child Protection Manager. They have been trained and are the **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)**. The deputy DLP is the Operations Manager.

Policy 4.2.4 Code of Conduct references the importance of reporting issues, and there is a very clear process on reporting in place.

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. 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 will be reviewed on an annual basis or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  6 / 2 / 2026
Chairman of Meath Accessible Transport Project CLG

For queries, please contact The Manager, The Designated Liaison Person under the Children First Act 2015.

3

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Related policies:

4.3.2 Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure While Travelling on the Bus

4.3.4 Anti-Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment Policy

4.8.9 Equal Opportunities, Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure

4.1.3 Garda Vetting Policy and Procedure

4.1.4 Training and Development policy

4.2.4 Code of Conduct Policy

Date	Version	Approval	Reasons and section for amendments
AGM 2017	Issue 3	AGM	Change of approval process and change of format to include amendments sections.
AGM 2022	Issue 4	AGM	Reviewed and updated
August 20th 2025	Issue 5	Board	Review and update

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