



Child Safeguarding Statements Guidance

December 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 **Child Safeguarding Statements** have been introduced by the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP)¹ to strengthen safeguarding leadership across all local organisations that work with or come into contact with children.
- 1.2 They are a simple, yet powerful tool that can help promote transparency and provide a focus on how we collectively safeguard children. They can also help provide parents, carers and children themselves with reassurance that organisations / settings are safe, that risks are actively considered and that appropriate arrangements are in place to help and protect children from harm.
- 1.3 Child Safeguarding Statements set out the following:
- A summary of the services being provided to children and families.
 - A statement on the organisation's commitment to safeguarding children.
 - The potential risks to children accessing the service(s).
 - The measures in place (such as the people, policies and procedures) to ensure, as far as practicable, that children are safe from harm.
- 1.4 Child Safeguarding Statements are defined within the CHSCP's written safeguarding arrangements. This means the following:
- All safeguarding partners are required to complete a Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - For relevant agencies, there is a duty to cooperate and complete a Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - For all other organisations, there is an expectation of compliance to complete a Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 1.5 If you are unsure about the status of your organisation, please refer to [sections 9-13 and Appendix 1 and 2 of the CHSCP Safeguarding Arrangements](#).
- 1.6 Child Safeguarding Statements require sign off from Chief Executives / the most senior person within an organisation. This reinforces the need for these key roles to be directly engaged in and sighted on their organisation's strengths and weaknesses.

¹ Following their introduction in Ireland under the Children First Act 2015.

2. How to complete a Child Safeguarding Statement

2.1 You should use the online tool to complete your Child Safeguarding Statement.

2.2 Summarise the services you provide.

Some organisations will provide a range of services. There is no need to list these individually. This section should simply provide an overview on what you do for children and their families.

2.2 Develop a statement that sets out your commitment to safeguarding children.

If your organisation already has a child protection and safeguarding policy in place, a condensed version of the statement should be included in the Child Safeguarding Statement. If not, a short statement should be developed.

2.3 Identify the risks that children might face when accessing your services.

When thinking about the potential risks that children might face, these should directly relate to the context and arrangements of your organisation. You should already have completed a CHSCP self-assessment that can be used to help identify those risks. If you haven't completed one, please contact chscp@hackney.gov.uk and see [here](#).

2.4 The self-assessment highlights a range of minimum standards that should be met by any organisation that works with or has contact with children. Consider the standards that haven't been met as these are likely to be useful prompts as to where your organisation is most exposed. Examples of risks are set out below, but there is no prescription for this. It is very much down to your own professional judgement to determine these.

- a. Child abuse / neglect may not be recognised by staff / volunteers.
- b. Staff may not know who to talk to for advice.
- c. Staff may not know how to make a referral / request for support
- d. The organisation may employ a person with a history of offences against children or someone who is unsuitable to work with children.
- e. Lack of trained staff increases the risk of signs and symptoms of abuse / neglect being missed.

2.5 Identify the arrangements you have in place to mitigate these risks.

These will broadly revolve around the people you have in place (such as designated safeguarding roles), the policies issued and the procedures you follow. If there are actions

in progress (such as a policy being updated) – then record this in your statement. Examples of how risks can be mitigated are set out as follows:

- a. All staff are Level 1 safeguarding trained
- b. Designated roles have all been trained to Level 3 in safeguarding children.
- c. The contact details of our designated safeguarding lead and deputy are known by all staff.
- d. Our child protection / safeguarding policy details the contact details of our key safeguarding roles
- e. Safer recruitment policy and procedures in place
- f. Complaints and disciplinary procedures in place

2.6 **Signature**

The sign-off of your Child Safeguarding Statement should be from your Chief Executive Officer or equivalent. On completion of the on-line tool, a pdf copy of your Child Safeguarding Statement will be automatically sent.

2.7 **Publishing and Displaying**

Once approved and signed, the finalised Child Safeguarding Statement should be displayed in a prominent place (and online) and be made available to all staff members, parents and guardians and (upon request) members of the public.

2.8 An index of organisations and their completed Child Safeguarding Statements will also be hosted on the CHSCP website. Whilst not an official accreditation, this will provide a public directory of those agencies that have cooperated with the CHSCP's written safeguarding arrangements.

2.8 **Reviewing and Updating**

Your Child Safeguarding Statement should be reviewed annually or earlier should there be any material changes to the issues detailed.