



## Information for HSE Funded Agencies on Compliance with Children First Legislation and Guidance

It is HSE policy that all organisations funded under Section 38 and 39 of the [Health Act \(2004\)](#) must be aware of, and comply with, the [Children First Act \(2015\)](#) and [Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children \(2017\)](#).

This compliance requirement is set out in Service Arrangement documentation that has been agreed between the HSE and the funded agency.

Funded agencies are required to confirm that they have complied with all requirements of the Children First Act 2015. Specifically, they are required to ensure that:

1. All relevant services have carried out a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. For more information on whether your organisation is a 'Relevant Service' see ([Schedule 1](#) of the Children First Act 2015).
2. All relevant services have a Child Safeguarding Statement in place.
3. All Mandated Persons (as per [Schedule 2](#) of the Act) have been identified and informed of their [role](#).
4. All funded agencies have a Child Protection and Welfare Policy in place. Funded agencies may adopt or adapt the [HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy](#) to meet their needs. Funded agencies' Child Protection and Welfare Policy should specify clearly how staff report child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla - Child and Family Agency.
5. All staff, agency staff, students and volunteers have completed the HSE eLearning Module "An Introduction to Children First".
  - Staff and students can access the eLearning module through [www.hseland.ie](http://www.hseland.ie).
  - Volunteers can access the eLearning module through <http://childrenfirst.hseland.ie>
6. The HSE Children First Self-Audit Checklist has been completed and will be made available to the HSE on request. The HSE Children First Self-Audit Checklist can be accessed at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/childrenfirst/hsefundedagencies.html>

### How Can the HSE Children First National Office Assist Funded Agencies?

The HSE Children First National Office was established to, *"support HSE and HSE funded services to promote and foster child-centred practice and to safeguard children through the effective Implementation of Children First"*, and can assist funded agencies in the following ways:

- ◆ Provide briefings directly to funded agencies re: Children First compliance requirements and guidance on how to meet these
  - ◆ Resources available for agencies to provide further information to relevant staff as necessary
  - ◆ Support development of action plans. Funded agencies themselves will be required to implement and monitor such plans.
  - ◆ Future training developments - keep an eye on the HSE Children First Website: [www.hse.ie/childrenfirst](http://www.hse.ie/childrenfirst).