

Child Safeguarding: Our responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015

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Overview

- Context for child safeguarding
- Children First principles
- Definitions
- Risk and protective factors
- Safeguarding approach
- Child-centred practice
- Barnardos training

Context for Child Safeguarding

- Legislation
- Policy requirements
- Individuals/practitioners



Children First Principles

Principle 1: The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

Principle 2: The best interests of the child should be paramount.

Principle 3: The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm.

Principle 4: Interventions by the State should build on existing strengths and protective factors in the family.

Principle 5: Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes. Where it is necessary for the State to intervene to keep children safe, the minimum intervention necessary should be used.

Principle 6: Children should only be separated from their parents or carers when alternative means of protecting them have been exhausted.

Principle 7: Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking into account their age and understanding, children should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.

Principle 8: Parents and carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.

Principle 9: A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents, carers and families. Where there is conflict, the child's welfare must come first.

Principle 10: Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.

A Guide for the reporting of child protection and welfare concerns (Tusla, 2017)

What is safeguarding?

- ‘the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm’ (Guidance on developing a child safeguarding statement, Tusla, 2017)
- The organisational approach involves identifying risks -> the best ways to respond, mitigate and reduce these risks
- Child-centred practice

Definition of harm

- “Harm” means, in relation to a child:
 - (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or
 - (b) sexual abuse of the child

(Children First, 2017)

Risk and Protective Factors

Risk

- Age of child
- Separated from parents
- Communication & language skills
- Sexuality
- Disability
- Mental health
- Family problems
- Social media

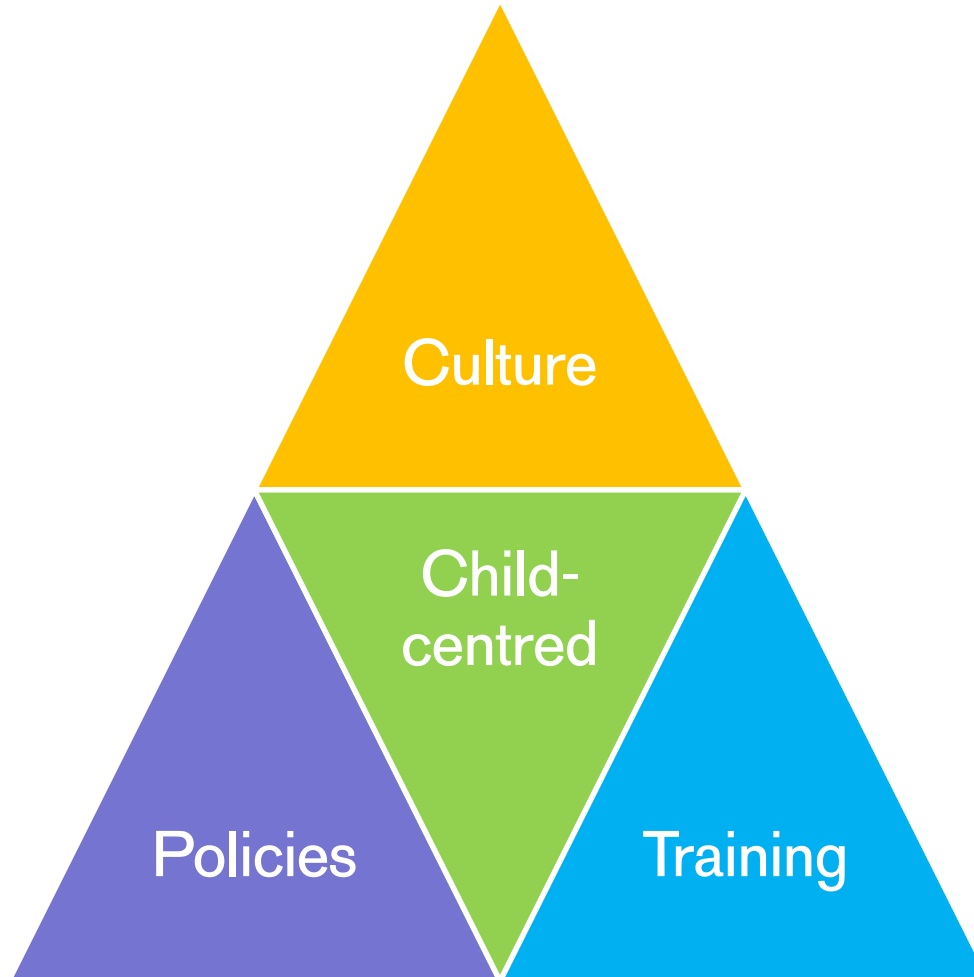
Protective

- Maturity
- Engagement with parents
- Good communication skills
- Specific care plans
- Key adult support
- Partnership work between services

Safeguarding approach

- Quality service provision
- Positive interactions & relationships
- Programme content - clear outcomes
- Awareness of risk and harm
- Clear reporting procedures
- Effective interagency work

What's involved?



Barnardos Child Protection Training

- One day Children First, Child Protection Training
- One day Designated Liaison Person Training
- Tailored and Public Events
- 1193 participants at 99 events in 2018
- 93% satisfaction

Thank you for listening.

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