



Housing | Health | Recovery

Bellevue House Child Safeguarding Statement: Updated June 2022

### 1. Name of service being provided

Organisation: NOVAS.  
Service Name: Bellevue House

### 2. Nature of services provided

**NOVAS** provides a range of services and accommodation throughout Ireland that include, Tenancy Sustainment, Housing First, Social Housing, Supported Temporary Accommodation, Outreach Services, Residential Children's services, and Addiction Services. We operate 19 locations and employ approximately 300 staff. Staff contact with children and young adults can vary from minimal contact to 24 hour supported accommodation.

**Bellevue House** is a six-bed residential service for unaccompanied minors from outside the EU, seeking asylum. It is a long-term specialised children's service, catering for minors between the ages of twelve and eighteen.

### 3. Principles to safeguard children from harm

We recognise the rights of the child to be protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to, and have their views taken into consideration in all matters that affect them.

NOVAS wholly recognises that the welfare of children is paramount and we commit to this principle by:

- Fully complying with our obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- Fully co-operate with all safe guarding matters
- Promote safety and minimise the risk of harm to all children who access our services.
- Protect workers from taking risks that may leave them open to allegations of abuse or neglect.

### 4. Risk Assessment

We have assessed any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. See table below of the risks identified and the list of procedures for managing them.

	<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedures to manage risk</b>
<b>1</b>	Children to children harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with required staffing levels.</li> <li>• Staff presence, accompaniment and supervision.</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policies in place.</li> <li>• Clear admission and induction policies and procedures in place.</li> <li>• Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines in place regarding safe practice and service delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	Children may be at risk of harm from a staff member or volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garda vetting procedures, recruitment and selection procedures in place.</li> <li>• Clear Child Protection policies, procedures and reporting structures in place.</li> <li>• Mandatory Children's First Training for all staff.</li> <li>• Lone working policy and code of conduct policy outline procedures for working with children.</li> <li>• Each service has a comprehensive safety statement.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	Children may be exposed to violence, challenging behaviour, or substance misuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child safeguarding policy followed, contact with TUSLA and Gardaí as required.</li> <li>• All staff trained in Trauma Informed Practice and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention.</li> <li>• Additional staffing/resources to be made available when required.</li> <li>• Substance misuse policies and procedures in place.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	Children in our accommodation service may be at risk of harm from contractors or visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have a safe place to go to. All children in NOVAS residential services have their own bedroom.</li> <li>• Visitors and contractors sign in and supervised by staff</li> <li>• Adequate staffing</li> <li>• Incident reporting procedure</li> </ul>

5	Children in our accommodation service may be at risk of inappropriate media content.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firewalls are installed on computers accessible by children.</li> <li>• Staff monitor and regulate television content to insure that only age appropriate content is viewable.</li> </ul>
6	Cyberbullying and the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to deliberately harm a child. E.g.: Social networking, gaming, webcams, messaging apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff to be suitably trained and understand the types of cyberbullying.</li> <li>• A knowledge of the common language used in social media (as per Children’s First, p106 to 111).</li> <li>• Educational workshops with the young people to create awareness and encourage reporting of these incidents.</li> <li>• All staff must document any reported incident of this type; inform parents and legal guardians, report incidents to TUSLA and the Gardaí immediately.</li> </ul>
7	Non – compliance with Children’s First Act 2015 and Children’s First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Residential Service Governance Structures in place.</li> <li>• Quality, Auditing and Risk Management Procedures in place.</li> <li>• Mandatory Children’s First Training in place.</li> <li>• Staff support and supervision policies in place.</li> </ul>

## 5. 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*.

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:

Procedure for the management relating to allegations of abuse or misconduct of a child by employees and volunteers.

- Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;



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- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are the mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## 6. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our organisation 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 services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in June 2024 or as soon as is practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For queries on this statement please contact:

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Relevant Person under the Children's First Act 2015

Signatories of this statement:

Chairperson: Greg Maxwell 

C.E.O: Úna Deasy 