

Fastrack Into Information Technology CLG

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement is to ensure that Fastrack Into Information Technology CLG meets its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and ensures as far as practicable that the young people and adults under its care and supervision are kept safe from harm.

2. Name of service being provided

Fastrack Into Information Technology CLG, hereinafter FIT, is a provider of Further Education Training. FIT's mission is to promote an inclusive Smart Economy ensuring access to in-demand tech skills for quality employment and shared prosperity. The priority for our programmes is to connect with disadvantaged people to improve their IT skills and enable them to thrive. Our training services operate primarily across the Republic of Ireland with some FIT activities taking place in Northern Ireland. The majority of our learners are adults but through our work with secondary school pupils and their teachers FIT also hosts events and activities for young people aged under 18.

3. Principles to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from harm

The safety, welfare and development of every child and person are core objectives and key priorities for FIT. Everyone in FIT has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that each child/ person is safe and protected from harm while availing of our services.

FIT adheres to the following principles to safeguard children and adults in our care from harm:

- In all matters relating to children, the best interests and welfare of children is of paramount importance.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/guardians/carers and families but where there is conflict, the child's welfare comes first.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and to be taken seriously and taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.

• Within the context of the Child Protection Policy which is designed to protect children from abuse, parents/guardians/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters concerning their children. In particular, parents/guardians should be informed if the FIT Designated Liaison person intends to report concerns of possible abuse or neglect to the relevant authorities. However the safety and well being of the child will take priority over concerns about adults against whom an allegation may be made.

4. Reporting a Concern

Please contact the following if you have a concern or if you require any further information on the FIT Policies and Procedures.

Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer
Director of Academic Studies Andrew Finn
andrewfinn@fit.ie Telephone 01 - 9170345

5. Implementation

Implementation is an on-going process.

FIT is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support FITs intention to keep children and adults safe from harm while availing of its services.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in April 2025 or as soon as practicable if there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.