



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

## Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group

### Annual Report 2022

June 2023

**Annual Report [2022] to the Minister for Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth of the Children First  
Inter-Departmental Implementation Group**

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## **1. Introduction**

Children First promotes the protection of children from abuse and neglect, by setting out what individuals and organisations need to do to keep children safe, and how to deal with concerns about a child's safety or welfare.

The term 'Children First' was originally used in relation to *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, first published in 1999 and reviewed and updated on a number of occasions since then, most recently in 2017. Since the enactment of the Children First Act 2015, the term is now a generic term used to encompass the guidance, the legislation and the implementation of both.

The Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group was established under Part 4 of the Children First Act 2015. The relevant provision, section 20, was commenced in May 2016 and the first meeting of the Group took place in November of that year.

The Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group is required, under section 26(1) of the Children First Act 2015, to prepare and submit to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth an annual report on the performance of its functions and activities in the preceding calendar year. This report must be submitted to the Minister no later than 30 June of the year following the calendar year to which it relates. On receipt of the annual report, the Minister is required to lay a copy of the report before each House of the Oireachtas.

## **2. Content and Structure of the Report**

The Annual Report is required to address the functions and activities of the Implementation Group for the period in question. In addition, the Report outlines the main provisions of the Children First Act 2015, and commencement of same.

The Report also includes examples of initiatives or actions undertaken by individual Departments and Agencies in 2022 to promote Children First and child protection and welfare in their sectors. The priorities of the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group (CFIDIG) for 2023 are outlined towards the end of the Report.

### **3. Children First Act 2015**

#### **3.1 Enactment**

The Children First Act 2015, which was signed into law on 19 November 2015, placed key elements of *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* on a statutory footing. The enactment of the legislation reflected the commitment of a number of successive Governments to strengthen protection for children. The Act is part of a suite of child protection legislation, which includes the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016 and the Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences Against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

#### **3.2 Key provisions**

The Children First Act 2015 provides for:

- Mandatory reporting of child abuse by key professionals;
- Mandated assisting;
- Comprehensive risk assessment and preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements by providers of relevant services to children;
- The establishment of the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group on a statutory basis; and
- The removal of the common law defence of reasonable chastisement in relation to corporal punishment of children by parents or those acting in loco parentis.

#### **3.3 Commencement**

- (i) Sections 1 to 5 (Part I) and section 28 (Part 5) of the Act were commenced on 11 December 2015. Sections 1 to 5 are standard provisions in relation to the title of the Act, its citation, regulations, definitions etc. Section 28 removes the common law defence of reasonable chastisement in relation to corporal punishment by parents or those acting in loco parentis.
- (ii) Section 18 (Part 3) and sections 20-26 (Part 4) were commenced on 1 May 2016. Section 18 of the Act is a technical amendment to ensure that the Child and Family Agency is a specified body for the purposes of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016. Sections 20-26 deal with establishing the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group on a statutory basis and expanding the Group to include all Government Departments.
- (iii) All remaining provisions of the Children First Act 2015 were commenced on Monday 11 December 2017. These included the provisions in relation to:
  - Section 14 - mandated reporting of child abuse by defined categories of persons; and
  - Section 11 - obligations on organisations providing relevant services to children to keep children safe from harm, to carry out risk assessments and to prepare and publish Child Safeguarding Statements.

## **4. Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group**

### **4.1 Membership of the Implementation Group**

As indicated above, Part 4, sections 20-26 inclusive, of the Children First Act 2015 were commenced on 1 May 2016. These sections of the Act provide for the establishment of the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group on a statutory footing. Membership of the Group includes representatives from every Government Department, the Health Service Executive (HSE), An Garda Síochána and the Child and Family Agency, Tusla.

The members of the Implementation Group are appointed by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, on the nomination of their respective Minister, CEO or Commissioner, as appropriate. The membership of the Implementation Group in the period covered by this Annual Report, i.e. 1 January to 31 December 2022, is set out in *Appendix 1*.

The Act (section 21 (2)) also requires the appointment by the Minister of an officer of the Minister to be the Chairperson of the Implementation Group. Ms Lara Hynes was appointed Chair of the Implementation Group by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on 11 May 2022.

### **4.2 Functions of the Implementation Group**

The Children First Act 2015 (section 22) sets out the functions of the Group which are to –

- a) Promote compliance by Departments of State with their obligations under the Act;
- b) Monitor the implementation by Departments of State of the guidelines issued by the Minister under section 6;
- c) Provide support to Departments of State in respect of the preparation and publication of sectoral implementation plans;
- d) Promote a consistent approach by Departments of State in respect of the preparation and publication of sectoral implementation plans;
- e) Report to the Minister, when requested, on the implementation of the Act and of the guidelines issued by the Minister under section 6; and
- f) Provide information or advice, or make proposals, to the Minister on matters relating to the functions of the Implementation Group referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

The Act also makes provision for the following:

- Minister issuing directions to the Implementation Group (section 23);
- Conditions and cessation of membership (section 24);
- Meetings and procedures for the Group (section 25);
- The preparation and submission to the Minister of reports, including an annual report on the functions and activities of the Implementation Group (section 26); and
- The preparation by each Department of State of a Sectoral Implementation Plan (section 27).

## **5. Activities of the Children First Inter-Departmental Implementation Group in 2022**

### **5.1 Meetings of the Implementation Group**

The Implementation Group met twice in the period 1 January to 31 December 2022. The meetings took place on 31 May and 20 October. Both meetings took place online. The agendas for these meetings can be found in *Appendix 2*.

### **5.2 2022 Work Programme of the Implementation Group**

The statutory functions of the Implementation Group under section 22 of the Act are set out in paragraph 4.2 above. The activities of the CFIDIG in 2022 concentrated on subsections (a) to (d) inclusive of paragraph 4.2, with a particular focus on monitoring implementation of the Act and any issues arising.

#### **5.2.1 Compliance with Children First Obligations**

The Implementation Group continued to promote compliance, monitor implementation and provide support in the preparation of Sectoral Implementation Plans (SIPs), in line with its core functions.

As several new members were appointed to the Group in the first half of 2022, an outline of the functions of the CFIDIG was given at the May meeting. It was noted that the SIP that each Government Department is obliged to prepare and publish is the key tool for supporting compliance with the Act in their respective sectors. The SIP sets out the range of measures in place to ensure compliance by the Department itself as well as by organisations providing relevant services to children that receive funding from the Department in that regard. The Group was reminded about these obligations at the October meeting, including the requirement for Departments to review their SIP at least every three years and their Child Safeguarding Statement at least every two years.

#### **5.2.2 Ukraine Crisis**

Since the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), along with a number of other Departments and Agencies, worked as part of the whole-of-Government response to meet the immediate accommodation needs of those fleeing the conflict.

The crisis in Ukraine formed part of the agenda for both the May and October meetings. Government Departments were reminded of their responsibility to ensure that children and young people are kept safe while accessing services provided or funded by them. This includes any new services developed as part of the response to the Ukraine crisis. They were also reminded of their responsibility to ensure that all staff in the department itself, the sectors and agencies under the remit of the department and the services funded by the department are aware of and comply with Children First obligations.

The Group was signposted to helpful resources on statutory obligations as well as safeguarding best practice for organisations working with children and young people, which are available on the Tusla website <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/organisations/>. These resources include *Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement* and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. The Group was given the opportunity to give updates on the work of their own Department or Agency in responding to the Ukraine crisis, including whether any child safeguarding issues had arisen and whether they had availed of Tusla's advice in this regard.

### **5.2.3 Other issues**

#### **Children First Awareness Week**

At the May meeting the Group was reminded about Children First Awareness Week (CFAW), which took place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It was co-ordinated by Tusla Communications on behalf of the CFIDIG. The information campaign raised awareness about Children First and reminded everyone, including organisations working with children and young people, of our collective responsibility to keep children safe.

It was noted that DCEDIY and Tusla Communications had considered the question about whether to hold a second awareness week in 2022. Acknowledging the need to build awareness while balancing the importance of reviewing progress and success, it was agreed that it would not be advisable to rollout such a campaign in 2022. It was proposed that, going forward, Children First Awareness Week would be held every two years, with the next campaign due to take place in the second half of 2023.

#### **Special Rapporteur on Child Protection**

The Group was advised about the Public Appointments Service (PAS) open competition to select the nominee for the role of Special Rapporteur on Child Protection for the next three-year term, following the expiration of Professor Conor O'Mahony's term in July 2022. It was noted that the name of the nominee selected through the PAS process would be brought to Government for approval. It was also noted that preparations were underway to bring Professor O'Mahony's final annual report, for 2021/2022, to Government for approval to publish by the end of the year.

## Department of Education Review of Child Protection

At the October meeting, the Department of Education updated the Group on the high-level independent review of the Department's current child protection policies and processes. The review included advising on how these policies and processes met current best practice and identifying any gaps, risks or areas for improvement. It was noted that a range of recommendations were made around improving the Department of Education's oversight of the education sector and that work was underway on an implementation plan.

In addition to the updates noted above, the following informative presentations were given to the Group during 2022:

- **Tusla Review of Adequacy Report (Tusla, May 2022)**

The Group received a presentation on the 'Review of the Adequacy of Child Care and Family Support Services' report for 2020, which was published in December 2021 and is available on the Tusla website <https://www.tusla.ie/publications/review-of-adequacy-reports/>

This report presents data on Tusla's child protection and welfare services, children in the care of the State and family support services for the year 2020. The presentation also included some more up-to-date provisional data for 2021 and 2022 drawn from Tusla's monthly performance and activity reports.

- **National Policy Framework for Children & Young People (DCEDIY, October 2022)**

The Group received a presentation on the *National Children and Young People's Policy Framework 2023 – 2028*, which is the successor to *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF) 2014 – 2020*. It was noted that BOBF was the first overarching national policy framework for children and young people (aged 0-24 years). Its purpose was to coordinate policy across Government to achieve better outcomes.

The new National Policy Framework will provide a focus and guidance to embed the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in policy development and implementation. It was noted that Ireland would be appearing before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Geneva in January 2023. As part of the development of the new Framework, actions would be devised to address the concluding observations of the CRC.

## **6 Actions taken by Departments and Agencies in 2022 in support of Children First and child protection**

The following examples provide an insight into some of the initiatives or actions undertaken by individual Departments and Agencies throughout the year to promote Children First and child protection and welfare in their sectors.

- **Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media**

Sport Ireland promote awareness of Children First compliance requirements and child protection across the sports sector. This is achieved mainly through the delivery of Sport Ireland's three Safeguarding workshops, which reaches thousands of sports leaders annually. Safeguarding workshops are delivered through the national network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships and through a number of National Governing Bodies of Sport. Over 8,000 participants attended workshops in 2022.

Sport Ireland have developed a Safeguarding Self-Assessment Framework, which is designed to support National Governing Bodies to strengthen their adherence to safeguarding compliance, policies and procedures, thereby ensuring that children and young people are protected in sport. The Framework helps sporting organisations safeguard children from harm, meet their legal obligations and adopt best practice.

- **Department of Education**

As part of the Department of Education's oversight of the implementation of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017*, the Department's Inspectorate checks on compliance with the key aspects of the 2017 Procedures during all school inspections. There were a total of 2,255 Inspections carried out by the Inspectorate of the Department during 2022, of which 100 were Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections (CPSI). In addition, the Inspectorate reports on compliance with aspects of child protection procedures in all published inspection reports and continues to engage with schools that are not compliant with aspects of the 2017 Procedures until the school becomes compliant.

During 2022, the Department of Education commenced implementation of the recommendations arising from a high-level independent review of the Department's current child protection policies and processes. A key element of this work was the development of *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools* and a *Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections in Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools*, which were developed following an extensive consultation process. It is intended that the new procedures and guide will be implemented in Quarter 1 2023.

- **Department of Rural and Community Development**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2023 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at local level and works with both individuals and communities. SICAP target groups include disadvantaged children and families. Compliance with Children First is part of the contract conditions in the Funding Agreement with SICAP delivery bodies, which are primarily Local Development Companies (LDCs).

In 2022, over 10,000 parents and guardians and almost 32,000 children and young people were supported through SICAP children and families activities. One SICAP-supported example is Southside Partnership's support to community-based parent and baby groups.

Southside Partnership (SSP) operates in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and had identified a need for community and peer connection for parents, as well as a need to address very early childhood socialisation and learning. To this end, SSP delivered weekly First Friends PEEP (Parents Early Education Programme) parent and baby groups. These took place across four disadvantaged neighbourhoods in partnership with other agencies. In 2022, 50 parents and 55 babies and toddlers availed of support through these groups.

- **Department of Social Protection**

The School Meals Programme provides funding towards the provision of food services to some 1,600 schools and organisations benefitting 260,000 children. The objective of the programme is to provide regular, nutritious food to children to support them in taking full advantage of the education provided to them. The programme is an important component of policies to encourage school attendance and extra educational achievement.

Budget 2022 provided €68.1 million for the programme with an additional €9m provided to allow access to 320 newly designated DEIS schools from September 2022. The Minister is committed to continuing to expand the School Meals Programme and build further on the significant extension of the programme in recent years.

An independent evaluation of the programme was undertaken in 2022 and the final report is currently being reviewed. This report will help to inform future decisions around this important programme.

- **Department of Foreign Affairs**

The Department of Foreign Affairs' Safeguarding Policy (2021) outlines the principles, expectations and requirements of DFA staff and partners in relation to safeguarding. It covers two strands of safeguarding: (1) child safeguarding and (2) prevention, mitigation and response to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. The policy is based on five key principles (i) zero tolerance (ii) survivors at the centre (iii) safeguarding is a shared responsibility (iv) understanding gender and social inclusion is central to the prevention, mitigation and response to safeguarding incidents and (v) reporting enhances accountability and transparency.

Following the development of the policy, training is being rolled out throughout the Department and safeguarding standards are being incorporated into grant management processes.

- **An Garda Síochána (AGS)**

Divisional Protective Services Units operate in each Garda Division, promoting a consistent and professional approach to the investigation of crimes against children, amongst other crime types. A bespoke training programme for all Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSUs) commenced in Quarter 2 2022 and is expected to be completed in Quarter 1 2023. This is being delivered by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) and includes presentations from a number of external speakers including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and Rape Crisis Centres. Meetings have taken place between Tusla, GNPSB and the Garda College with a view to recommencing Joint Specialist Interview Training, which is anticipated will recommence in Quarter 1 2023.

An Garda Síochána and Tusla continued to implement An Garda Síochána/Tusla Joint Work Programme as approved by the National Child Safeguarding Strategic Liaison Committee (NCSSLC), with a view to enhancing child protection processes and procedures, as set out within the Children First Joint Working Protocol for An Garda Síochána/Tusla Child and Family Agency Liaison 2017.

- **Health Service Executive (HSE)**

The implementation of Children First across the Health Service Executive (HSE) is coordinated through governance structures that include Children First Operational Steering Committees, established across each Community Healthcare Organisation and Hospital Group, and links with key National Services. All areas are supported by Children First Training and Development Officers from the HSE Children First National Office.

Staff awareness of their roles and responsibilities to support the protection and welfare of children under Children First remains a key priority for the HSE. All HSE staff, and staff in HSE funded and contracted services, are required to complete a mandatory online training module 'An Introduction to Children First', every three years. During 2022, the HSE Children First National Office continued to deliver online live interactive training workshops for Mandated Persons to a further 3,200 HSE staff members. A new training workshop 'Recognising and Responding to Child Protection and Welfare Concerns' was also developed and delivered to over 200 HSE staff who are not-mandated persons. Further workshops were provided to line managers in relation to their roles and responsibilities under the HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy, and workshops to support guidance on the completion of child safeguarding risk assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements were also made available.

The HSE Children First National Office also continued with the ongoing development of training and resource initiatives to support child safeguarding, as set out in the HSE Children First Training and Resource Strategy 2021-2023, including commencing the development of a Train the Trainer Programme to support HSE funded services to become self-sufficient and sustainable in the delivery of key child safeguarding training to their own staff.

A framework for undertaking Children First Compliance Assurance Checks was successfully piloted in 2022. The HSE Children First National Office plans to commence roll-out of a programme of compliance checks from 2023. The checks will be directed at a number of individual HSE and HSE funded services, on an annual basis. While the compliance assurance checks have organisational compliance assurance benefits, their primary aim is to support and enhance child safeguarding arrangements across HSE and HSE funded services. The objective of the checks is to drive service improvement by reviewing individual services' practical implementation of Children First requirements, identifying where compliance is evidenced and/or identifying areas in need of improvement.

- **Tusla**

### **Tusla's Children First Governance Framework**

During 2022 the Children First Information and Advice Service (CFIAS) supported Tusla's Children First Steering Committee with the development of Tusla's *Children First Governance Framework*. The framework recognises that complying with Children First incorporates both the Children First Act 2015 and the Children First National Guidance 2017. The framework provides a common understanding of Children First compliance for internal and externally funded services and supports consistency in the implementation of Children First.

A core priority for the CFIAS, in partnership with the Commissioning Unit, is ensuring that supporting funded services to become compliant with Children First complements the governance responsibility of Tusla when funding these services. Child safeguarding governance checks for commissioned services have been updated to reflect the *Children First Governance Framework* and are incorporated into the Service Level Agreement application process.

### **Training and Training Resources**

In 2022 the CFIAS continued to engage and support the external environment through Children First information provision and training. In addition to the provision of face-to-face programmes, the service developed and launched the Mandated Person eLearning Programme and a number of animated explainer videos on key child safeguarding topics, which are available on the Tusla website.

During the year the CFIAS also provided ongoing support to existing Train the Trainers (TxT) initiatives. A Children First TxT programme was delivered within the Early Learning and Care/ School-Aged Childcare sector, in partnership with the National Child Safeguarding Programme. The ELC/SAC partnership delivered child safeguarding foundation training to over 2,300 participants in 2022.

### **Ukraine Emergency Response – Provision of Information and Advice**

The CFIAS responded across all areas to requests for information and advice about Children First from organisations involved in the emergency response to the Ukraine crisis. This included attending meetings, advising on roles and responsibilities of individuals and organisations under Children First and facilitating briefing sessions.

## **Tusla Portal**

The Tusla Portal and Tusla dedicated contact points remained available for reporting child protection concerns by digital form, by telephone and in writing. The Portal remains a safe and secure method for reporting concerns to Tusla and is available at the following link <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/web-portal/>

## **Tusla National Garda Liaison Office**

Tusla's ICT department, the Tusla National Garda Liaison Office (TNGLO) and the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit (GNCPU) developed an ICT system to enable the sending of Children First notifications electronically between Tusla and An Garda Síochána through the Tusla portal. The eChild Abuse Notifications system was launched in December 2022.

## **Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU)**

Tusla's CSSCU continued to advance the goals of the Child Safeguarding Statement Implementation Support Strategy (2018-2023), particularly building on their many established partnerships.

During 2022, the CSSCU reviewed the Child Safeguarding Statements of 360 organisations. While over half were non-compliant upon first review, the CSSCU supported these organisations through advice and guidance so as to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015.

## **7 CFIDIG Priorities for 2023**

In line with the statutory functions of the Implementation Group and following on from the activities of the Group in 2022, the priorities for 2023 will be as follows:

- Continue to review and monitor impact of implementation of Children First Act 2015;
- Address any cross Departmental/cross sectoral issues arising, including in relation to effective interagency working;
- Inform consideration of proposals for updates to the Children First National Guidance;
- Roll out of a second Children First Awareness Week to reinforce the importance of supporting the protection and welfare of children;
- Continue to support awareness of and access to Children First online training through all relevant sectors;
- Provide information or advice, or make proposals to the Minister on matters relating to the functions of the Implementation Group under section 22 (f) of the Children First Act 2015; and
- Comply with any requests from the Minister for reports under the Children First Act 2015.

## APPENDIX 1

### **MEMBERSHIP OF CHILDREN FIRST INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION GROUP FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2022**

| <b>Department</b>  | <b>Member</b>        | <b>Membership Dates<br/>01/01/2022-31/12/2022<br/>unless otherwise stated</b> |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Children, Equality, Disability,<br>Integration and Youth | Conor Rowley {Chair} | 01/01/2022 – 11/05/2022   |
|  | Lara Hynes {Chair}   | 11/05/2022 – 31/12/2022   |
|  | Gráinne Morrissey    | 01/01/2022 – 19/05/2022   |
|  | Gill Barwise         | 19/05/2022 – 31/12/2022   |
| Education  | Judith Lyons         |   |
| Housing, Local Government<br>and Heritage                | Sean McLaughlin      | 01/01/2022 – 10/03/2022   |
|  | Niamh Gallagher      | 10/03/2022 – 31/12/2022   |
| Justice  | Gráinne Whelan       | 01/01/2022 – 10/03/2022   |
|  | Chris O'Donohoe      | 10/03/2022 – 31/12/2022   |
| Social Protection  | Marie O'Flynn        |   |
| Transport  | Patricia O'Brien     | 01/01/2022 – 03/08/2022   |
|  | Anne Pickett         | 03/08/2022 – 31/12/2022   |
| Tourism, Culture, Arts,<br>Gaeltacht, Sport and Media    | Karen Brophy         | 01/01/2022 – 23/12/2022   |
|  | Sylvia Shannon       | 23/12/2022 – 31/12/2022   |
| Health   | Rachel Kenna         | 01/01/2022 – 10/03/2022   |
|  | Georgina Bassett     | 10/03/2022 – 31/12/2022   |

|  |                                |                         |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Finance  | Scline Scott                   |                         |
| Agriculture, Food and the Marine                               | Padraig McMahon                | 01/01/2022 – 03/08/2022 |
|  | Kevin Galligan                 | 03/08/2022 – 31/12/2022 |
| Environment, Climate and Communications                        | Brendan O'Reilly               |                         |
| Defence  | Anne Behan                     | 01/01/2022 – 10/03/2022 |
|  | Jean Hogarty                   | 10/03/2022 – 23/12/2022 |
|  | Edel Clancy                    | 23/12/2022 – 31/12/2022 |
| Foreign Affairs  | Caitriona Doyle                | 01/01/2022 – 03/08/2022 |
|  | Barry Mulligan                 | 03/08/2022 – 31/12/2022 |
| Enterprise, Trade and Employment                               | Gerald Harty                   |                         |
| Public Expenditure and Reform                                  | Kieran Sheedy                  | 01/01/2022 – 11/03/2022 |
|  | Conall Mac Michael             | 11/03/2022 – 31/12/2022 |
| Taoiseach  | Stephanie Harris               | 01/01/2022 – 23/12/2022 |
|  | Brian Keenan                   | 23/12/2022 – 31/12/2022 |
| Rural and Community Development                                | Clodagh McDonnell              |                         |
| Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science | Frank Hanlon                   | 01/01/2022 - 11/03/2022 |
|  | David Keating                  | 11/03/2022 - 31/12/2022 |
| <b>Agencies</b>  |                                |                         |
| Tusla, Child and Family Agency                                 | Kate Duggan                    | 01/01/2022 – 23/12/2022 |
|  | Colette McLoughlin             | 23/12/2022 – 31/12/2022 |
| An Garda Síochána  | Detective Chief Superintendent | 01/01/2022 – 11/03/2022 |
|  | Declan Daly                    | 11/03/2022 – 31/12/2022 |

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
|                          | Detective Chief<br>Superintendent Colm<br>Noonan |  |
| Health Service Executive | Marion Martin                                    |  |

**AGENDAS OF THE 2022 MEETINGS OF THE CHILDREN FIRST INTER-DEPARTMENTAL  
IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

**Meeting of Tuesday 31 May 2022**

**Venue: Online using Webex**

**Time: 2.30pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Introduction/Welcome New Members
2. Minutes of meeting of 21 October 2021
3. Functions of CFIDIG/ Compliance with CF Obligations
4. Ukraine Crisis
5. Presentation on Tusla Review of Adequacy Report
6. Updates:
  - Children First Awareness Week 2021
  - Garda Vetting Review Group Re-vetting Proposal
  - Special Rapporteur on Child Protection
7. AOB:
  - CFIDIG Annual Report 2021
  - Next meeting date 20 October 2022


**Meeting of Thursday 20 October 2022**

**Venue: Online using Webex**

**Time: 11.00am**

**AGENDA**

1. Introduction/Welcome New Members
2. Minutes of meeting of 31 May 2022
3. Ukraine Crisis
4. Presentation on National Policy Framework for Children & Young People (successor to BOBF)  
– J Donlon
5. Compliance with Children First obligations
6. Updates:
  - Special Rapporteur on Child Protection
  - DoE Review of Child Protection
7. AOB:
  - CFIDIG Annual Report 2021
  - RCSI SIMposium
  - Proposed 2023 meeting dates



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