

Better Options- Child Safeguarding Statement

AHEAD is an independent not for profit organisation working on a national and international scale. Better Options is a national event, available only to anyone looking for information relating to disability on accessing college or training in Ireland. As part of this event, AHEAD will provide information and advice to young people and children on accessing college, training or employment with a disability and also how to access disability support in the relevant institution or organisation.

AHEAD is committed to safeguarding children and have developed a range of policies and procedures for our employees and volunteers working with children as part of their work with us as part of our annual Better Options. This will ensure that we can create a safe environment for children and young people who would like to participate in our event.

AHEAD's Better Options Risk Assessment Document indicates areas of potential harms and proactive control measures we have put in place to reduce all risks identified as much as possible including removing the chat feature from the webinar, introducing policies and procedures to control any potential risks, brief all staff and volunteers involved in the event about these procedures.

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements under the Children First Act 2015 (including the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017), Children First Considerations- Provision of On-line Lessons and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice (2019).

In line with the above outlined policies we have also appointed a designated liaison person for this event, which will be the event organiser, Christine Hynes.

The following procedures have been introduced as part our work to ensure child safeguarding is fully supported as part of our event;

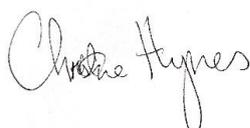
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by volunteers or employees against a child availing of our activities.

All these procedures are available on request.

Our organisation has also provided a range of relevant child safeguarding information and training for all staff and volunteers who will be involved in the event in advance.

In line with Tusla Guidelines, we will strive to continuously monitor and review our policies and procedures to ensure as much as possible that we are able to keep all children safe from harm while attending our event on the 28th November 2020.

This statement will be published on The Better Options section of The AHEAD Website and will be provided to all volunteers and staff involved in our event. We can also provide a copy to Tulsa if needed.



Signed on behalf of AHEAD

Date: 20th October 2020