

REPORTING THRESHOLDS

REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR CONCERN AFFECTS – Health, welfare and development of the child

Outlined in the Children First National Guidance

Applies to everybody

There is a moral and ethical responsibility to report child safeguarding concerns

Reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern include:

- Evidence, for example an injury or behaviour, that is consistent with abuse and is unlikely to have been caused in any other way
- Any concern about possible sexual abuse
- Consistent signs that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect
- A child saying or indicating by other means that he or she has been abused
- Admission or indication by an adult or a child of an alleged abuse they committed
- An account from a person who saw the child being abused

THRESHOLD OF HARM SERIOUSLY AFFECTS – Health, welfare and development of the child

- Outlined in the Children First Act, 2015
- Applies to Mandated Persons – those listed in Schedule 2 of the Children First Act, 2015
- Places a legal responsibility on Mandated Persons to report concerns that meet or exceed the definition of harm as per the Children First Act, 2015
- Uses the Definition of Harm as per the Children First Act, 2015
Section 2 of the Children First Act 2015 defines harm as follows:
'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.'

