



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

Co-funded
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

Kick-off meeting

Joint EU-Council of Europe project

Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland

30 January 2023

9:00 – 17:15

Ballroom, Farmleigh House

White's Rd, Phoenix Park, Dublin 15, D15 TD50, Ireland

(enter Phoenix Park via Castleknock Gate or Parkgate Street entrance and follow signs for Farmleigh)

Context

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint Project “**Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland**” aims to strengthen the country’s response mechanism to child sexual abuse, to ensure that undue delays in the treatment of such cases is diminished, and that all children who are victims of sexual violence benefit from a child-friendly access to justice.

In 2015, Ireland successfully implemented the **Children First Act**, which introduced mandatory reporting for suspected cases of child abuse. It was followed by the development of a **pilot Barnahus project in Galway in 2019, which became fully operational in January 2022**. The goal of the European Union-Council of Europe project is to address the challenges encountered during the pilot project and to facilitate the opening of two additional centres: **Barnahus South in Cork and Barnahus East in Dublin**.

The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and is implemented by the Council of Europe’s Children’s Rights Division in close co-operation with the Irish Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) from 12 August 2022 to 11 February 2025.

The project is divided into **two main components**:

1. The three Barnahus sites are initiated. The design and operations are set up, well-coordinated and standardised to respond to and manage child sexual abuse cases in a child-friendly manner and in line with promising European practices
2. The model is integrated into practice and staff is confident in its use and in applying interagency processes

Project Kick-off

9:00-10:00	Arrival tea and coffee
10:00-10:30	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Roderic O’Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland</i> • <i>Daniele Dotto, Deputy Director for Support to Member State reforms at DG REFORM, European Commission</i> • <i>Irena Guidikova, Head of the Children’s Rights and Sport Values Department, Council of Europe</i>
10:30-10:45	Supporting the Barnahus model through the European Commission’s Technical Support Instrument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sébastien Renaud, Deputy Head of Unit for Governance and Public Administration at DG REFORM, European Commission</i>
10:45-11:00	Presentation of the Irish Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY): Barnahus - The journey so far <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kate Gillen, Social Work Specialist, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i>
11:00-11:20	Presentation of the Council of Europe-European Union Barnahus Ireland project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Zaruhi Gasparyan, Senior Project manager at the Council of Europe</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teresa Gil Ricol, Project manager at the Council of Europe</i>
11:20-11:50	Discussion Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: <i>Tanya Ward, Chief Executive, Children’s Rights Alliance</i>
11:50-12:00	Concluding remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Simon Harris T.D., Minister for Justice of Ireland</i>
12:00-13:30	Lunch break

Barnahus Working Group meeting	
13:30-14:00	Warm up introductory exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Siobhan Murray, best-selling author of ‘The Burnout Solution’, psychotherapist and former Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald Children's Charity</i>
14:00-15:00	Presentation of the work of the three Barnahus sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Barnahus West (Galway): Aoife O’Malley, Barnahus West Centre Manager</i> • <i>Barnahus East (Dublin): Aideen Walsh, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner/ Assistant Director of Nursing, Children’s Health Ireland</i> • <i>Barnahus South (Cork): Fiona Geraghty, Barnahus South /Family Centre Manager</i> Presentation of Research - Barnahus is Coming: A Reflexive Thematic Analysis of how child sexual abuse services at a Dublin hospital adapt and respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eimear Lacey, Principal Social Worker, St. Louise’s Unit Children’s Health Ireland</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee/Comfort Break
15:15-16:15	Afternoon Working Group session: The 4 S’s support matrix - Bringing support, sagacity, solutions and strategy to your work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Siobhan Murray, best-selling author of ‘The Burnout Solution’, psychotherapist and former Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald Children's Charity</i>
16:15-17:00	Discussion Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: <i>Des Delaney, Chief Social Worker, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i>
17:00-17:15	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Des Delaney, Chief Social Worker, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i> • <i>Kate Gillen, Social Work Specialist, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i> • <i>Allayne Cassidy, Administrative Officer, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i> • <i>Zaruhi Gasparyan, Senior Project manager at the Council of Europe</i>