

Child Safeguarding Statement

Tallaght University Hospital

Tallaght University Hospital is one of Ireland's largest acute teaching hospitals and is an academic partner of Trinity College Dublin. The Hospital employs over 3,500 staff. The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for the Hospital. Every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of and/or attending our service is safe and protected from harm. Policies and procedures have been developed at national and local levels to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise, and to manage it safely where it does.

Tallaght University Hospital is part of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group and treats over 350,000 patients per year. The Hospital works in close collaboration with our community partners in Community Health Organisation (CHO7). Tallaght University Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital underpinned by the legal status of a Chartered Corporation established under Statutory Instrument, providing adult services to a catchment population of approximately 650,000 people and serves approximately 200 General Practitioners.

Tallaght University Hospital is a provider of local, regional and national specialties. On-site HSE Adult Mental Health Services and Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght operate under separate governance structures, with close operational alignment to the adult services provided by Tallaght University Hospital.

Underpinning the values of the hospital is a commitment towards promoting the welfare of children and young people who are patients of this hospital, children of adult patients who are availing of Hospital services, as well as children who may be visiting adult patients.

Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of the Tallaght University Hospital. The following guiding principles to safeguard children from harm are informed by Children First Guidance and legislation:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and to be taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- All children must be treated equally.
- Child protection is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the best interests of children.

Risk Assessment

This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by an assessment, undertaken for this service, of any potential for harm (risk) to a child while availing of this service.

Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks

Risk Category	Main procedures and controls in place to manage risk identified
1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities	HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure Recruitment and selection procedures Trust in Care Policy which includes the procedure for managing allegations of abuse made against a staff member HSE Code of Standards and Behaviour Staff supervision policies HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards to ensure online safety (includes Electronic Communications Policy and Internet Content Filter Standard)
2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities	Supervision/ accompaniment/ admission policies as relevant to local service. Public access policies as relevant to local services HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards to ensure online safety (includes Electronic Communications Policy and Internet Content Filter Standard)
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	Mandatory training "An Introduction to Children First" eLearning for all HSE staff HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons Children First included in Employee Induction HSE Children First National Office Training and Resource Strategy
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	"An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all HSE staff; Child friendly information in relation to how to report if they feel unsafe
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance in HSE services	Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement HSE Children First Governance Structures in place Internal Audit and compliance assurance measures
6. Other (Additional risks and/or controls identified)	Additional risk assessment and control measures have been put in place related to the Risk of harm to a child by a member of staff from contacted services and Risk of harm to a child due to adult and children's services being co-located
<p>Note: The definition of harm in relation to a child is: " (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" (Children First Act 2015)</p> <p>Note: This is an amalgamated list of risks, grouped into themes. This Statement has been informed by a more detailed secondary risk assessment document which can be made available on request.</p>	

Procedures - (All relevant Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available upon request)

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), HSE Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Guidance issued by Tusla – Child and Family Agency.

In addition to the policies and procedures named above the following policies and procedures also support our intention to safeguard children availing of this HSE service:

1. Professional Registration for Health professionals
2. Hospital Visiting Policy
3. HSE National Open Disclosure Policy

The Hospital also has an Active Children's First Steering Committee, Chaired by the Deputy CEO with multidisciplinary Membership

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

Name: John Kelly

Contact Details: john.kelly2@tuh.ie 01 4143068

All queries about this statement, and the risk assessment it is informed by, should be directed to the Relevant Person.

Implementation

We recognize that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on the 1st December 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any manner to which the statement refers.

Signed:  John Kelly, Deputy CEO

