

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. It is a national urology centre, the second largest provider of dialysis services in the country and a regional orthopaedic trauma centre as well as the national acetabular centre. 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.

The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all staff (employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any other person) performing any role of function in, or on behalf of Tallaght University Hospital.

Risk Assessment

This Child Safeguarding Statement was informed by a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. All healthcare services have followed the HSE Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement Guidance (2019), which offers a standard procedure for completing a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. The risks applicable to this Child Safeguarding Statement are:

1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member.
2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public (includes online risk).
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member.
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child.
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance in HSE services.
6. Risk of harm to a child by Contractor providing services at the Hospital

Risk assessments are treated as live documents that are maintained and monitored as necessary and appropriate. All Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments carried out by Tallaght University Hospital services list the procedures and control measures (both national and local) that are necessary and/or in place to mitigate any risks identified. Where necessary, risks are managed in line with the HSE Integrated Risk Management Policy. Queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment that was carried out by Tallaght University Hospital for the purpose of developing this Child Safeguarding Statement should be directed to the named relevant person.

Procedures -

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed with due regard to, and in accordance with, 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. The following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of service:

- Incident & Near Miss Management Policy to inform Hospital management of any incident where a child has been harmed while availing of the service;
- Trust in Care Policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member;
- Recruitment and selection policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are suitable to work with children (includes Garda Clearance of New Employees Policy 2007);
- "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all HSE staff;
- HSE Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedure (HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy 2019);
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy and ICT Policy on use of Emails
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person

Additional Procedures to manage risks as identified above -

- Professional Registration for Health professionals
- Hospital Visiting Policy
- HSE National Open Disclosure Policy
- Active Children's First Steering Committee

(All Policy/ Procedure available upon request)

Governance

The process for completing Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements is governed by the HSE Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement Policy. Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Chief Officers, Hospital Group (HG)/Hospital Chief Executive Officers and HSE National Managers have operational responsibility for ensuring this Policy is used to complete Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements in all HSE services their designated areas of responsibility as per the HSE Governance structure. This is also supported by the HSE Children First Governance Structure which includes a national HSE Children First Oversight Group and HSE Children First Sector Reference Groups. Tallaght University Hospital has a Children First Operational Steering Committee, Chaired by the Deputy CEO with multidisciplinary Membership.

Implementation

Managers are responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement are in place and operating effectively.

Relevant Person

For further information or queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact: John Kelly, Deputy CEO, 01 4143068, email john.kelly2@tuh.ie

Signed:  John Kelly, Deputy CEO