

Child Safeguarding Statement

CHI at Tallaght

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght is one of four CHI hospitals operating in Dublin currently. The Children's Health Bill 2018, provided for the establishment of a separate single statutory entity - CHI to provide paediatric services and take over the services previously provided by three Dublin children's hospitals to operate as CHI at Crumlin, CHI at Temple Street and CHI at Tallaght with the addition of CHI at Connolly in 2019. The new entity has its own governance for the services of the four hospitals which it will run as a single service, initially on the existing hospital sites and in due course in the new hospital and two other centres. The main hospital on a site shared with St James's Hospital is under construction. In the interim CHI at Tallaght will continue to provide services as it has done on the Tallaght Hospital Campus. The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for CHI. Each staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that each 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. Safeguarding children on the Tallaght Hospital Campus is a collaborative effort. CHI, On-site HSE Adult Mental Health Services and Tallaght University Hospital operate under separate governance structures but work closely together. CHI and TUH also work in close collaboration with our community partners in Community Health. Jointly TUH and CHI at Tallaght provide services to an adult and child population of approximately 450,000 people mainly in the region of South Dublin and Kildare.

The mission of Children's Health Ireland is to: *Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence, in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.* Underpinning these values is a commitment from CHI at Tallaght towards promoting the welfare of all children and young people who attend Tallaght Hospital Campus, this includes patients of CHI, 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 CHI at Tallaght.

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 CHI at Tallaght 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 CHI at Tallaght 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 services:

- Children's Health Ireland Tallaght Incident Management Policy
- 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
 - HSE National Open Disclosure Policy
 - Active Children's First Steering Committee
- (All Policies/ Procedures are available on 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 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.

CHI at Tallaght/TUH have a joint Children First Operational Steering Committee, chaired by the TUH Deputy CEO and CHI Paediatric Executive Lead.

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: Dr Ciara Martin, Paediatric Executive Lead, 014142000 or paediatricexecutivelead@tuh.ie

Signed: 
Dr Ciara Martin, Paediatric Executive Lead