



Child Safeguarding Statement



Name of Service:

Children's Health Ireland at Tallaght

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is a large organisation of over 100,000 people, whose job is to run all of the public health services in Ireland. The HSE manages services through a structure designed to put patients and clients at the centre of the organisation.

Description of this service and its activities:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght is a paediatric health service co-located with Tallaght University Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24. The CHI at Tallaght facility comprises of two sites: A satellite centre which includes an Emergency Care Unit, Out-Patient Department and Child Sexual Abuse Unit inclusive of Forensics Department. There are also a theatre, two inpatient units, a day unit and an out-patients department situated within the main building of TUH but under the governance of CHI. It is staffed by specialist paediatric staff including doctors, nurses and health care professionals. CHI Tallaght management and staff acknowledge that the welfare of children who attend our services is of paramount importance and our service works to safeguard children at all times. Every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child / young person availing of our service is safe and protected from harm. This safeguarding statement is prepared in order to keep children safe from harm while in our care and in line with requirements for organisations who care for children as defined in legislation. Harm is defined in the Children First Act 2015 as "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 sexual abuse of the child". In our safeguarding practice we adhere to: Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs 2017). Policies and procedures have been developed at national and local levels to promote safe environments for children and young people, to mitigate the potential risk for harm to arise and to manage it safely where it does. The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all staff (employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any other persons) performing any role or function in, or on behalf of CHI Tallaght and all are required to conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principals of this statement.

HSE principles to safeguard children from harm:

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of the HSE. 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) Contractors	CHI's Service Level Agreements with external contractors includes safeguarding requirements which are subject to review.

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)
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.

Procedures - (All HSE National Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available at www.hse.ie).

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 HSE policies and procedures also support our intention to safeguard children availing of this HSE service:

- Integrated Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm
- HSE Incident Management Framework 2020 to inform HSE management of any incident where a child has been harmed while availing of the service

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

Name: Eimear Gilchrist, Head Medical Social Worker Contact Details: eimear.gilchrist3@nchg.ie

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

Implementation

We recognise 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 December 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signature of Service Manager:

Title: Clinical Director

Print Name: Dr Ikechukwu Okafor

Service Address: CHI at Tallaght, Tallaght University Hospital, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 TN3C