



# Child Safeguarding Statement

## Tallaght University Hospital

Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) is one of Ireland's largest acute teaching hospitals and is an academic partner of Trinity College Dublin and employs over 3,500 staff. TUH is part of the HSE Dublin and Midlands Health Region and treats over 450,000 patients per year. TUH is a Voluntary Hospital underpinned by the legal status of a Chartered Corporation established under Statutory Instrument, providing services to patients aged 16 years and above. TUH is a provider of acute and sub-acute healthcare on a local, regional and national basis. Care is provided across 4 main streams: Urgent and Emergency Care, Scheduled Care, Radiology and Laboratory Medicine. Care is provided across a number of sites that make up the TUH Campus including: TUH main hospital building, CRY unit, Reeves day surgery centre, Simms building, Tymon North Community Unit and a number of HSE facilities. Services provided to patients include medical, surgical, nursing, HSCP and diagnostic assessments and interventions to all inpatients and outpatients, services provided include transport of patients throughout the hospital, meal provision, intimate care provision e.g. washing, toileting etc., physical examinations, group work, home visits and interventions as per nursing care plans. These interventions are provided face to face, by telephone or via online platforms.

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 TUH. CHI at Tallaght inpatient wards are located within the main TUH campus, some services within TUH are provided to CHI at Tallaght inpatients e.g. including Portering, ICT support, services provided are governed by an SLA which is reviewed yearly.

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 TUH. 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	TUH Child Protection and Welfare Policy TUH Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedure to Tusla Recruitment and Selection Policy Verification of Membership of Professional Bodies Policy Trust in Care Policy which includes the procedure for managing allegations of abuse made against a staff memberHSE Code of Standards and Behaviour HSE National Consent Policy Protected Disclosures Policy Chaperone for Patients and Healthcare Professionals Policy Mobile Phone Device Policy Data Protection Policy HSE National Consent Policy Disciplinary Policy Staff supervision policies Social Media Policy Patient Chart Content Approval Policy Garda Vetting Policy
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 Hospital Visiting Policy ICT Policy on Public WiFi
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 Mandatory Education Training Policy Final Corporate Induction Policy TUH Child Protection and Welfare Policy TUH Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedure to Tusla Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons 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 TUH 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 Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons
6. Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact).	ICT Policy on Public WiFi Social Media Policy ICT Policy on ICT Application Responsibility ICT Policy on Application Administration
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 relevant Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available upon request)**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

1. Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service-Trust in Care
2. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children-Garda Vetting Policy, Recruitment and Selection Policy, Verification of Professional Body Policy
3. Procedure for provision or and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm-‘An Introduction to Children First’ e-Learning training mandatory for all staff
4. TUH Child Protection and Welfare Policy and TUH Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedure to Tusla
5. Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons
6. Procedure for appointing a relevant person


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

**Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015**  
**Name: Barbara Keogh Dunne**  
**Contact Details: [ceo@tuh.ie](mailto:ceo@tuh.ie) 01 4142845**

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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2027 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any manner to which the statement refers.

**Signed:**  **Barbara Keogh Dunne, CEO**