

Child Safeguarding Statement Children's Health Ireland at Connolly

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Connolly is a paediatric health service located on the grounds of Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. It is part of the Children's Health Ireland Group delivering children's health services in Ireland. The CHI at Connolly facility includes an Urgent Care Centre, Out-Patient Department and Child Sexual Abuse Unit. It is staffed by specialist paediatric staff including doctors, nurses and health care professionals.

CHI Connolly 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 as 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 Connolly and all are required to conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principals of this statement.

Risk Assessment

This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment.

The Risks applicable to this Child Safeguarding Statement are:

Risk of harm to a child by a staff member
Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor, or member of the public (includes online risk)
Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member
Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child
Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and /or related guidance
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. Queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment that was carried out at Children's Health Ireland at Connolly for the purpose of developing this Child Safeguarding Statement should be directed to the named relevant person and are available for inspection on request.

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 the service:

- CHI Integrated Risk Management Policy
- Child Safeguarding included as a risk category within the Risk Management Process and management of any risk identified
- CHI Recruitment Policies in line with the National Vetting Bureau (children and vulnerable persons) Act
- Trust in Care HSE Policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member
- Procedure of Registration for Health Professionals
- HSE National Open Disclosure Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Procedure for reporting of child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of CHI at Connolly staff that are Mandated Persons
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person
- CHI group Children First Steering Committee and CHI at Connolly Children First Working Group
- Mandatory e-learning training for all staff "An Introduction to Children First"
- Access to further training and information on Child Safeguarding including the identification of occurrence of harm

Governance

The process for completing the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement is guided by the HSE Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and 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.

The CHI Group Children First Operational Steering Committee is in place to support the CEO of CHI to ensure all CHI sites are compliant with the requirements of the legislation. The CHI at Connolly Children First Steering Committee acts on the Connolly site, supporting work the of the CHI Group Children First Operational Steering Committee who report to the CHI Executive.

Implementation

Managers and Department Leads are responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement are in place and operating effectively. The CHI at Connolly Children First Steering Committee aims to support the CHI Group Children First Operational Steering Committee to ensure compliance with Children First in CHI at Connolly

Relevant Person

For further information or queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact: Dr Ciara Martin, Executive Lead, Children's Health Ireland at Connolly, Tel: 01 6407500



Signed:

Dr Ciara Martin, Clinical Director, CHI at Connolly