



# Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Service:

Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

Description of this service and its activities:

CHI at Crumlin is an acute paediatric teaching hospital. It is Ireland's largest Paediatric hospital and is responsible for high quality care to children from birth to 16 years across a variety of complex medical and surgical conditions.

CHI at Crumlin is also the national centre in Ireland for a large number of clinical specialities. The hospital sees 150,000 children annually as inpatients, day cases, outpatients and attendances to the Emergency Department.

CHI at Crumlin is committed to safeguarding children while they attend our services. There is a local Child Protection Committee in place in the hospital and CHI at Crumlin is part of the wider CHI HG Children First Operational Steering Committee.

**HSE principles to safeguard children from harm:**

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of CHI at Crumlin. 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 a number of different assessments, undertaken by a number of departments in CHI at Crumlin, 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 & controls in place to manage risk identified
<p>1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff Member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-employment checks – vetting for all staff</li> <li>• On-line Children First training for all staff</li> <li>• Child Protection Awareness Training (CPAT) available for frontline staff available monthly.</li> <li>• System to monitor compliance with mandatory training in place</li> <li>• Professional registration and Codes of Conduct for healthcare professionals</li> <li>• Link to Children First National Guidance on hospital intranet</li> <li>• Local algorithm on reporting suspected child protection and welfare concerns</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Child_Protection_Algorithm.pdf">https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Child_Protection_Algorithm.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local procedure for management of allegations against a staff member, in line with HSE Trust in Care policy (2005)</li> <li>• HSE National Consent Policy</li> <li>• SLAs with Contracted Staff</li> <li>• Practice Guidelines re Social Media, electronic devices and photography</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/SOP-IPAD-Tablet-Electronic-devices-Play-2019_OA9s1R0.pdf">https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/SOP-IPAD-Tablet-Electronic-devices-Play-2019_OA9s1R0.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/SOP-IPAD-tablets-by-the-CNSp-or-education-Oct-2020.pdf">https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/SOP-IPAD-tablets-by-the-CNSp-or-education-Oct-2020.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Consent-for-using-cameras-Videos-Audio-Video-in-the-hospital-2019.pdf">https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Consent-for-using-cameras-Videos-Audio-Video-in-the-hospital-2019.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/consent-form-patient-photographs-2021_IWzoHdh.pdf">https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/consent-form-patient-photographs-2021_IWzoHdh.pdf</a></p>

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

- Wards locked after 10pm. Audit of same bi-annually, and should be parent-only access
- Parents encouraged to stay in ward with inpatient and in hospital re OPD/ED patients
- Supervision of patient by sibling allowed only if over 18 years old 'Practice Guidelines on intimate care and Chaperoning'.

<https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/intimate-care-2022.pdf>

<https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/chaperoning-care-chi-nursing-practice-guideline.pdf>

Additional safety measures in place for a child with behaviour that challenges

- <https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Behaviour-SOP-on-the-Management-of-Environment-and-Safety-for-Young-People-2017.pdf>
- <https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Behaviour-Guideline-for-Safety-and-Environment-Booklet-2017.pdf>
- [https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/behaviour-mental-health-concerts-careplan-35a-generic\\_9KV6v8V.pdf](https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/behaviour-mental-health-concerts-careplan-35a-generic_9KV6v8V.pdf)

Practice Guidelines re Social Media, electronic devices and photography. As listed in Section 1.

**Transfer policies**

- [https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/transfer-patients-for-treatment-abroad-from-a-ward-area\\_dSwO6yP.pdf](https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/transfer-patients-for-treatment-abroad-from-a-ward-area_dSwO6yP.pdf)
- <https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Transfer-Assessment-of-Patient-Transfer-External-2020.pdf>
- [https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/transfer-checklist-for-overseas-transfer-2021\\_C1SlhH5.pdf](https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/transfer-checklist-for-overseas-transfer-2021_C1SlhH5.pdf)
- <https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/transfer-patients-from-home-for-transplant-abroad-VsH13Oq.pdf>



<p>3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff information, supervision and training and oversight of same by Child Protection Committee (TOR updated 2019)</li> <li>• Child Protection Algorithm displayed widely and on intranet as per section 1.</li> <li>• Mandatory HSEland training every 3 years and CPAT; Child Protection Awareness Training at induction stage for Nursing and HSCP staff.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff training and awareness</li> <li>• Procedures for children who have communication difficulties: An 'Accessible Communication for Everyone' (ACE) group commenced in 2017 as a resource for staff and families to access should communication difficulties be impeding a young person's access to medical care or impacting the quality of their hospital journey.</li> <li>• Interpreter services are used in CHI at Crumlin</li> </ul>
<p>5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Child Protection Committee meets bi-monthly. There is good representation at the quarterly CHI HG Operational Steering Committee meetings</li> <li>• "Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons" (December 2022) – CHI HR Information Service team will generate a list of mandated persons, to be held by the HR business partner lead.</li> <li>• Clinical Director is Relevant person</li> </ul>
<p>6. Other additional risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical Social Work support</li> <li>• Use of Joint Tusla/HSE interagency protocol including escalation of placement issues to Tusla/HSE</li> </ul>
<p>Potential for harm, if child is inappropriately placed in an acute hospital as a place of safety for a significant period of time</p>	

**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 more detailed secondary risk assessment documents that can be made available on request.

**Procedures - (All HSE National Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available at [www.hse.ie](http://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:** Professor Sean Walsh, Clinical Director CHI at Crumlin.

**Contact Details:** 01-409 6100

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 or before **21<sup>st</sup> 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:**

*Sean Walsh*

**Title: Clinical Director/ Site Lead**

**Print Name:** Professor Sean Walsh

**Service Address:** CHI at Crumlin, Cooley Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, D12 N512