



Children's Health Ireland
at Temple Street

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Nature of service

Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street is an acute national tertiary paediatric hospital providing emergency, out-patient and in-patient services to sick children and their families.

2. Safeguarding at Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street

CHI at Temple Street management and staff acknowledge that the welfare of children who attend our service is of paramount importance and our service works to safeguarding children at all times. "Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the psychological, social, physical, material and online welfare of children and protect them from harm." Harm as defined in the Children First Act 2015 is: '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'. While protecting children from harm is one part of safeguarding, children and young people also need safeguarding in order for them to grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

This Safeguarding Statement is prepared in order to keep children safe from harm while in our care and in line with requirements of organizations who care for children as defined in legislation. In our Safeguarding practices, we adhere to: Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Dept of Children & Youth Affairs 2017). All staff, students, volunteers and visitors are required to conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principals of this statement.

3. Principles to safeguard children from harm at CHI at Temple Street

In keeping with national guidance, CHI at Temple Street adheres to the following principles in its safeguarding work:

- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- 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 taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, children should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- CHI at Temple Street keeps unsupervised access to the internet on patients' own devices under regular review in consultation with young people/parents/guardians regarding the safety controls in place on those devices
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of children.

4. Risk assessment of potential harm to children whilst availing of our service

CHI at Temple Street has undertaken a risk assessment of potential harm to a child while availing of our service and a risk management plan is in place to underpin the Child Safeguarding Statement. Child Safeguarding is now included as a risk category within our Risk Management processes within the Hospital. Any documents relating to the Hospital's risk assessment are available for inspection upon request.

Risk Category	Main Procedures and controls in place to manage risk identified
Risk of Harm to a child by a staff member volunteer or student, including risks related to online actives	Recruitment & section Policy, Garda Vetting & re vetting existing employees policy On-line Children's First training for all staff, Child Protection Awareness Training (CPAT), System to monitor compliance with mandatory training in place Workplace Conduct Policy Guidelines for dealing with allegations of abusive behaviour against children in our care CHI Social Media Policy HSE Trust in Care Policy, HSE National Consent Policy Hospital Complaints Policy, HSE incident management frame work and Guidance 2018 Lone working policy, Clinical Photography Policy, SLA's in place with all services providers
Risk of Harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks to online activities	Unaccompanied Children Policy, Missing and absconding patient policy, Visitor policy Security on site 24/7, Restricted access to site 6pm to 8am, Swipe access & screening of visitors on wards
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 staff CPAT training, Child Protection Algorithm displayed widely, Child Protection Information on intranet Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated
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" eLearning for all staff, CPAT training DNA policy Medical Social Work support HSE Child Friendly posters
Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance in HSE services	Children First Steering committee CPAT training, Review of staff compliance of e Learning
Other (additional risks and/or controls identified)	Complex discharge meeting, Social Inclusion Medicine
<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)</p> <p>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.</p>	

5. Safeguarding Procedures:

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.

In addition to the law, national policies and procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services.

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while availing of our service.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons working in CHI at Temple Street who are mandated persons.
- Hospital Policy on Protected Disclosure

All procedures listed are available on request.

6. Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

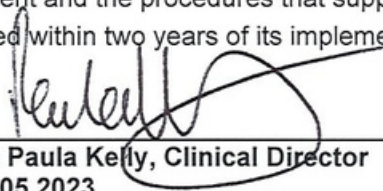
Name: Martina Stanley, Senior Medical Social Worker **Contact Details:** 01 878 4200

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

7. Implementation:

We recognise that implementation of our Safeguarding Statement is an on-going 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within two years of its implementation or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:


Ms Paula Kelly, Clinical Director
12.05.2023