



# Child Safeguarding Statement

(Name of Service)

ADDITIONAL  
LOGO IF  
REQUIRED

The Health Service Executive (HSE) provides a range of health and social services to children and adults in hospitals, health facilities and communities across the country. The HSE directly employs approximately 77,000 staff and up to a further 42,000 are employed by the Voluntary Hospitals and Bodies funded by the HSE. The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for the HSE. Every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of and/or attending our service is safe and protected from harm. Policies and procedures have been developed at national and local levels to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk 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 person) performing any role of function in, or on behalf of this service.

## Description of service and activities provided:

## Risk Assessment

This Child Safeguarding Statement was informed by a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment(s). The HSE has identified five overarching risk categories (with the option of adding additional risks as necessary) that services use to assess any potential risk of harm to children and young people. The risks applicable to this Child Safeguarding Statement are:

- |   |
|---|
| 1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member.   |
| 2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public (includes online risk).    |
| 3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member. |
| 4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child.        |
| 5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance in HSE services.     |
| 6. Other <b>(Additional Risks identified)</b>   |

Risk assessments are treated as live documents that are maintained and monitored as necessary and appropriate. All Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments carried out by HSE services list the procedures and control measures (both national and local) that are necessary and/or in place to mitigate any risks identified. Where necessary, risks are managed in line with the HSE Integrated Risk Management Policy. Queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment(s) carried out by this service for the purpose of developing this Child Safeguarding Statement should be directed to the named relevant person.

## Procedures - (All HSE National PPPGs are available at [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)).

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 HSE policies and procedures 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 2018 to inform HSE management of any incident where a child has been harmed while availing of the service;
- Trust in Care Policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member;
- Recruitment policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are suitable to work with children (includes Garda Clearance of New Employees Policy 2007);
- "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all HSE staff;
- HSE Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Procedure (HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy 2019);
- HSE National I.T. Policies & Standards to ensure online safety (includes Electronic Communications Policy 2019 and Internet Content Filter Standard 2011);
- HSE Code of Standards and Behaviour 2009.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person (See named person below)

## Additional Procedures to manage risks as identified above - (Local procedures are available through named Relevant Person)

## Governance

Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Chief Officers, Hospital Group (HG)/Hospital Chief Executive Officers and HSE National Managers have operational responsibility for ensuring Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements are completed in HSE 'relevant services' under their designated areas of responsibility. Governance is supported through the HSE Children First Governance Structures.

## Implementation

All Service Managers are responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement are in place and operating effectively.

## Relevant Person

Name and Contact Details:

Signed: (CO/CEO/Service Manager or delegate) (Title - ) Date:

Print Name: