



Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Service:



The Health Service Executive (HSE) is a large organisation of over 100,000 people, whose job is to run all of the public health services in Ireland. The HSE is committed to ensuring that the children and young people who avail of our services are safe from harm.

Description of service and activities provided:

HSE Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of the HSE. The following principles are informed by Children First Guidance and legislation and support our intention to keep children safe from harm:

- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- 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 and have the right to be protected from discrimination, intolerance, harassment and bullying.
- 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 of any potential for 'harm', to a child while availing of this service ('harm' as defined in the Children First Act 2015). Below is an amalgamated list of the main risks identified and the procedures in place for managing these risks.

A more detailed secondary risk assessment for this service is available on request.

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	HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy HSE Recruitment and Selection Procedures HSE Trust in Care Policy Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers Protected Disclosures Procedures for the receipt and management of Protected Disclosures in the HSE HSE National Consent Policy Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of the HSE HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards HSE Standard Operating Procedure for the Management of Telephone or Video Enabled Care Clinical Practice
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 HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	Statutory and Mandatory Training Policy for HSE Employees includes 'An Introduction to Children First' eLearning module HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure Children First included in HSE Employee Induction HSE Children First National Office Training and Resource Strategy Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of the HSE Protected Disclosures Procedures for the receipt and management of Protected Disclosures in the HSE
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	Child friendly information about HSE Child Safeguarding Statements, recognising and reporting abuse and the HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy 'Your Service Your Say' leaflet and form for under 18 year olds
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance or policies	Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons HSE Children First Governance and compliance monitoring measures in place HSE Children First National Office established to support implementation
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).	HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards to ensure online safety Internet Content Filter Standard

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:

- HSE Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Procedures 2023
- HSE Incident Management Framework 2020

All queries about this statement, and any associated risk assessments, should be directed to the Relevant Person.

The Relevant Person appointed for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement is

Name:

Contact Details:

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 24 months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Review Date:

Date Signed:

Service Address:

Name of Service Manager:

Service Manager

Service Manager Title:

Signature: