



Child Safeguarding Statement St. Luke's General Hospital Carlow/ Kilkenny

St. Luke's General Hospital is an acute hospital facility servicing the catchment area of Kilkenny and Carlow. We are responsible for providing high quality safe care to children and adults.

St. Luke's General Hospital aims to plan, manage and deliver service through effective responsible stewardship and decision making on allocation of resources to deliver a high quality, safe and reliable care and support. It is our principle to safeguard children from harm and this is reflected within our Values, Vision and Mission.

St. Luke's General Hospital is committed to fulfilling its obligations as an organisation by implementing and complying with The Children First Act 2015. As an organisation we are obliged to:

Keep children safe from harm while in our care

Complete a risk assessment

Prepare this safeguarding statement

Appoint a relevant person and deputy

The services provided by the hospital are: Emergency Dept., Anaesthesiology, Acute Medical Assessment Unit Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General Medicine Special Care Baby Unit, Care of the Elderly Acute Psychiatry, General Surgical Coronary Care Unit, Care of the Elderly, Intensive Care Unit Central Sterile Supplies Dept., Endocrinology Occupational Therapy, Paediatrics, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Respiratory, Speech & Language Therapy.

In addition to in-patient beds there are a large number of outpatient clinics, investigative facilities and community linked services, which include: Outpatients Department based in Kilkenny and Carlow, Oncology Day Ward, Day Services Unit Radiology, Gastroenterology CT Scanning, Hepatology Cardiac Diagnostics Unit, Palliative Care Dermatology, Microbiology Neurology, Rheumatology Endoscopy, Nurse Specialist Services are present in the areas of Diabetes, Respiratory, Infection Control, Chest Pain, Cardiac Disease Management, Palliative Care, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Haemovigilance, Resuscitation Training, Hepatology, Oncology and Tissue Viability.

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 St. Luke's General Hospital and all are required to conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principals of this statement.

Risk assessments carried out in the context of the risk of any potential for harm to a child from abuse while in our care. This risk assessment does not include risks to general health and safety.

Key Risks Identified

1. Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff including sensitive groups and contractors providing services at the hospital
2. Risk of harm to a child from another patient, parent or member of the public
3. Risk of harm or concerns not being recognised or reported by staff
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

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tulsa's Child Safeguarding:

The following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of our service:

- Trust in Care Policy and relevant procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member
- Mandatory e-learning training for all staff "An Introduction to Children First"
- HSE Child Protection and Welfare Reporting procedure (HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy 2019)
- National Incident Management Framework (HSE 2020)
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- HSE National Open Disclosure Policy

- Procedure of Registration for Health Professionals
- Procedure for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to TUSLA
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons within St. Luke's General Hospital
- St. Luke's General Hospital reporting into the IEHG steering group and St. Luke's Children First Working Group
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children

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.

Implementation:

This is an ongoing process. 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.

Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and to the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while attending our services.

Revision: This document will be reviewed in 12 months or sooner if required.

Anne Slattery

General Manager

St. Luke's General Hospital Carlow/ Kilkenny

Date

4/5/22

For queries please contact Dolores Delaney, CNM 2 Paediatric Ward/ Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Tel: 056-7717421 or Deputies Emer Tyrrell ED and Paula Anne Power Maternity Services.