



## HSE (Corporate) Child Safeguarding Statement

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 70,000 staff and a further 40,000 are employed by the Voluntary Hospitals and Bodies funded by the HSE.

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people is a core objective and key priority 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 (physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect). HSE policies and procedures have been developed 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 HSE staff (employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any person performing any role or function in, or on behalf of, the HSE). This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by the following risk assessment.

### CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Identifier	Procedures in place to manage risk identified
1. Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-employment checks</li> <li>• Professional standards for healthcare staff</li> <li>• Professional registration for healthcare professionals</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour for staff</li> <li>• Trust in Care Policy</li> <li>• HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy</li> <li>• Policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery</li> <li>• National Consent Policy</li> </ul>
2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision/accompaniment/admission/public access policies as relevant to service provision</li> <li>• Staff supervision and training</li> <li>• Reporting procedure</li> </ul>
3. Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act and National Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children First Governance structure</li> <li>• HSE Controls assurance process</li> <li>• Children First compliance checklist for Section 38 and 39 funded and contracted services</li> <li>• Compliance monitoring and audit of HSE and funded and contracted services</li> </ul>
4. Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff information, supervision and training</li> <li>• Reporting procedure</li> <li>• Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting</li> <li>• "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all HSE and HSE funded staff. Further training and support e.g. briefings for mandated persons available as necessary from the HSE Children First National Office</li> <li>• Consultation with service users (talking with and listening to the child; Information leaflets for children; Information regarding safe practice on admission; Patient Experience Surveys; 'Your Service Your Say')</li> </ul>

## Procedures

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). In addition to the procedures outlined in the risk assessment, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of any HSE service:

- Recruitment policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are suitable to work with children, including Garda vetting policy;
- Trust in Care policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member;
- HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy outlining the HSE's reporting procedure;
- "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all HSE staff
- Requirement on all Community Healthcare Organisations, Hospital Groups and National Services to maintain a list of Mandated Persons in their area;
- Requirement on all Community Healthcare Organisations, Hospital Groups and National Services to appoint a relevant person to oversee the assessment of risk and development of service specific Child Safeguarding Statements as required.
- Integrated Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm;
- Safety Incident Management policy to inform HSE management of any incident where a child has been harmed whilst availing of the service;
- HSE National Open Disclosures Policy.

The HSE has established Children First Governance Structures to support and monitor the implementation of Children First across the HSE and HSE funded and contracted services. The structures include a national HSE Children First Oversight Group, Divisional Oversight Groups and Implementation Committees at Community Health Organisation (CHO) and Hospital Group levels. A National HSE Children First Office has been established to provide support and guidance to all HSE services in relation to their roles and responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015 and HSE principles to safeguard children.

## Implementation

National Directors, Chief Officers and Hospital Group CEOs are responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement are in place and operating effectively.

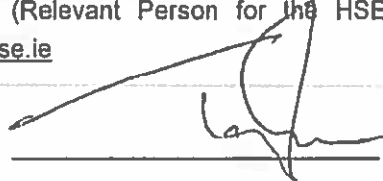
Child Safeguarding Statements must be developed across each Community Healthcare Organisation, Hospital Groups and Hospitals deemed as a 'relevant service' under the Children First Act 2015. (Subsidiary Child Safeguarding Statements may be put in place in relevant services within each of these e.g. a large or complex service).

A Relevant Person must be identified to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement(s); who must ensure that any service specific risks are identified, and that additional policies and procedures are developed, implemented and reviewed as necessary to manage these risks.

This Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1/2/2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For further information or queries, visit [www.hse.ie/childrenfirst](http://www.hse.ie/childrenfirst) or contact Marion Martin, HSE Children First National Lead (Relevant Person for the HSE (Corporate) Child Safeguarding Statement) on 086-1678041 or [childrenfirst@hse.ie](mailto:childrenfirst@hse.ie)

Signed by:



Tony O'Brien, Director General, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8