



St. Luke's General Hospital Carlow- Kilkenny
Freshford Road, Kilkenny R95 FY71 056-7785000

Child Safeguarding Statement

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people is a core objective and key priority for the St. Luke's General Hospital, Carlow- Kilkenny. We are committed to providing safe services to all children less than 18years of age.

Staff awareness of their role as mandated persons with a responsibility to report any potential harm to children is a priority within our hospital. This is promoted through mandatory child protection training for every staff member. 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).

We are committed to reviewing any potential risks that could pose potential harm whilst a child is receiving care here in St. Luke's and address these risks as they arise.

The HSE has developed policies and procedures to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise; and to manage if safely where it does.

The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all HSE staff (employees, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any person performing any role or function in, or on behalf of, the HSE).

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 within St. Luke's General Hospital, Carlow- Kilkenny.

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.

Signed by:



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