



Child Safeguarding Statement Tallaght University Hospital

1. Name of Service being provided:

Tallaght University Hospital is one of Ireland's largest acute teaching hospitals and is one of two main teaching hospitals of Trinity College Dublin.

With 562 beds, 12 theatres and 14 Critical Care beds in operation, the hospital treats over 410,000 patients per year and employs over 3,000 staff.

Tallaght University Hospital is unique in that it is part of two hospital groups, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group and the Children's Hospital Group which serves a population of over 1.2 million across seven counties. Tallaght University Hospital operates within Dublin South Central Primary Care Community Health Organisation (CHO) Area 7.

2. Nature of service & principles to safeguard children from harm:

Tallaght University Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital underpinned by the legal status of a Chartered Corporation established under Statutory Instrument, providing adult and paediatric services to a catchment population of approximately 450,000 people (80% of which are located in South Dublin and parts of Kildare), and serves approximately 200 General Practitioners. It provides child-health, adult, psychiatric and age-related healthcare on one site. Onsite Mental Health services operate under separate HSE governance structures, with close operational alignment to the adult services provided by Tallaght University Hospital.

Tallaght University Hospital has both an Adult and a Children's Emergency Department, which provides a 24 hour emergency service, 365 days a year with over 80,000 adult and paediatric attendances each year.

The mission of the Hospital is patient focused, it is to:

- Service the healthcare needs of the community
- Provide care based on best practice
- Enhance our patients' wellbeing through education and information

- Educate healthcare students in partnership with third level institutions
- Support our staff in lifelong learning
- Undertake and support research for improved patient and public care
- Develop voluntary participation and support

Underpinning these values is a commitment towards promoting the welfare of children and young people who are patients of this Hospital, children of adult patients who are availing of Hospital services, as well as children who may be visiting adult patients.

3. Risk Assessment:

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	Risk of not being fully compliant with Children First legislation, policy procedures and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Children First (CF) Implementation Committee with responsibility for implementation of all the requirements outlined in the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection & Welfare of Children • Development of Children First Implementation plan • Development of a Child Safeguarding Statement • Identify additional resources required to ensure the implementation of all aspects of the Children First Act 2015 throughout the Hospital in both adult and child health services • Awareness programme to ensure all staff undertake the mandatory e-learning programme and development of a system to track staff compliance with same. • Maintenance of a list of mandated persons as outlined in the Act • Development of a procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla • Management of any risk identified in relation to implementation of the Act
2.	Risk to children in receipt of hospital services from a member of staff, (including students, locum and agency staff; volunteers)	<p>The Hospital's recruitment policy is in line with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 • Professional Registration for healthcare professionals • Completion of mandatory CF e-learning programme <p>Adoption of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE Trust in Care Policy • HSE National Consent Policy • Parents/guardians advised of the need to accompany children as per Hospital Visiting policy
3.	Risk to children in receipt of hospital services from another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians advised of the need to accompany children as per Hospital Visiting policy

	adult or child availing of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures for reporting to Tusla by the Hospital or a member of staff of the Hospital in accordance with the Act
4.	Risks to children in receipt of hospital services from any visitors or members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians advised of the need to accompany children as per Hospital Visiting policy • Procedures for reporting to Tusla by the Hospital or a member of staff of the Hospital in accordance with the Act
5.	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised and reported by staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking of compliance with mandatory e-learning programme • Maintenance of a list of staff who are mandated persons under the Act • Procedures in place for the reporting of child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla

4. Procedures:

Tallaght University Hospital's 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 procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of the services of Tallaght Hospital, or while they are accompanying adults who are either availing of our services or visiting Tallaght Hospital:

***Recruitment policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff and volunteers who are suitable to work with children including Garda Vetting Policy**

***Trust in Care and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member/volunteer.**

***TUH Child Protection and Welfare Policy and related procedures .** The hospital Child Protection Guidelines for the Children's Hospitals (2014) are currently being updated to align with Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and the HSE National Child Protection & Welfare Policy 2016.

***Introduction to HSE Children First mandatory eLearning training for all staff via HSEland.**

***Maintenance of a list of the persons in the organisation who are mandated persons.**

***Integrated Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm.**

***HSE National Open Disclosures Policy**

***Designation of a relevant staff member to oversee the assessment of risk under Children First Act 2015.**

5. Implementation:

Tallaght Hospital recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our commitment towards keeping children safe from harm while availing of the hospital services, while visiting, or accompanying adults who are availing of hospital services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 11th March 2019 or sooner secondary to the commencement of the Children's Health Act 2017.

Signed:
(Provider)



(Provider's name & contact details: Lucy Nugent, DCEO
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Relevant person under Children First Act 2015