

Child Safeguarding Statement

Temple Street Children's University Hospital

1. Nature of service

Temple Street Children's University Hospital is an acute national tertiary paediatric hospital providing emergency, out-patient and in-patient services to sick children and their families.

2. Safeguarding at Temple Street Children's University Hospital

TSCUH management and staff acknowledge that the welfare of children who attend our service is of paramount importance and our service works to safeguarding children at all times. Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Harm as defined in the Children First Act 2015 is: 'assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child'. While protecting children from harm is one part of safeguarding, children and young people also need safeguarding in order for them to grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

This Safeguarding Statement is prepared in order to keep children safe from harm while in our care and in line with requirements of organizations who care for children as defined in legislation. In our Safeguarding practices, we adhere to: Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Dept of Children & Youth Affairs 2017). All staff, students, volunteers and visitors are required to conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principals of this statement.

3. Principles to safeguard children from harm at Temple Street Children's Hospital

In keeping with national guidance, Temple Street Children's University Hospital adheres to the following principles in its safeguarding work:

- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene fairly to support families to keep children safe from harm.
- Interventions by the Hospital should build on existing strengths and protective factors in the family.
- Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes.
- Taking account of their age and understanding, children should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/guardians have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.
- A appropriate balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/guardians and families. Where there is conflict, the child's welfare must come first.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of children.

(Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Dept of Children & Youth Affairs 2017, p. 2-3))

4. Risk assessment of potential harm to children whilst availing of our service

TSCUH has undertaken a risk assessment of potential harm to a child while availing of our service and a risk management plan is in place to underpin the Child Safeguarding Statement. Child Safeguarding is now included as a risk category within our Risk Management processes within the Hospital. Any documents relating to the Hospital's risk assessment are available for inspection upon request.

5. Safeguarding Procedures:

In addition to the law, national policies and procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services.

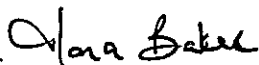
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while availing of our service.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons working in TSCUH who are mandated persons.
- Hospital Policy on Protected Disclosure

All procedures listed are available on request.

6. Implementation:

We recognise that implementation of our Safeguarding Statement is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within two years of its implementation or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____



Mona Baker, Chief Executive Officer
9th March 2018