



Child Safeguarding Statement

The Health Service Executive (HSE) provides public health and social services in Ireland. We are committed to making sure that the children and young people who use our services are safe from harm.

Our principles to safeguard children from harm:

We believe in putting children at the centre of everything we do. Every child has the right to feel safe, respected and protected from harm, abuse, discrimination and bullying. Every child has a voice that must be listened to. Children's best interests always come first, and we work collaboratively and responsibly—together with families, staff and partner agencies—to safeguard, support and empower every child. We train our staff to recognise and respond to child abuse, harm and exploitation. Child safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Name and address of service:

Mayo University Hospital, Castlebar, Co Mayo, F23 H529

Short description of our service and the activities that we provide:

Mayo University Hospital is a HSE West North West Model 3 Acute Hospital.

It provides a range of services to children and adults across departments such as the emergency department, outpatients department, paediatrics, maternity and other medical and surgical services.

Risks and how we manage them

This Child Safeguarding Statement is based on our assessment of any potential for harm to a child while using this service. It focuses on risks of harm as defined in the Children First Act 2015 (sexual, physical, emotional abuse and/or neglect, that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect a child's health, development or welfare) and the procedures that are in place to manage those risks. It does not address general clinical or healthcare delivery risks (such

as those relating to standards of care, diagnosis, treatment, communication failures or medical error) where no safeguarding from child abuse dimension exists. Those risks are managed through [HSE Clinical Governance](#) and the [HSE Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Procedures](#). Clinical incidents that have a child safeguarding element, for example, deliberate clinical neglect or harm, inappropriate use of restraint/restrictive practices, or the administration of medication for purposes other than treatment, are included here where relevant.

Below is a summary of the main risks identified. A more detailed risk assessment for this service is available on request.

Risk Category	Controls in place to manage risk identified (in addition to the procedures listed below)
1. Risk of harm to a child from a staff member, volunteer or student	- Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers - HSE National Consent Policy
2. Risk of harm to a child, from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	- Policies on admission, supervision and accompaniment as relevant to local service - Public access policies as relevant to local services
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a staff member not recognising or reporting a child protection or welfare concern	- Statutory and Mandatory Training Policy for HSE Employees includes 'An Introduction to Children First' eLearning module - Children First included in HSE Employee Induction - HSE Children First National Office Training and Resource Strategy
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child not recognising or reporting a child protection or welfare concern	- Child-friendly posters on 'Being Safe and Asking for Help', HSE Child Safeguarding Statements and the HSE National Child Protection and Welfare Policy 'Your Service Your Say' leaflet and form for under 18-year-olds
5. Risk of harm to a child due to a service not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance and policies in HSE services	- HSE Children First governance and compliance monitoring measures in place - HSE Children First National Office to support implementation of Children First
6. Risk of harm to a child in the digital environment (including telehealth, social media, web access, electronic content and interaction)	- HSE National IT Security Policies - HSE procedures and guidelines for digital health - HSE National Policy for Social Media and Data Protection Staff Use

Click or scan QR code for more information about our child safeguarding procedures and controls



Procedures to safeguard children and young people from harm

In addition to the controls listed above, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- HSE National Child Protection and Welfare Policy and accompanying suite of policy guides (which includes the procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers to work with children
- Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including identification and reporting of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the people in the HSE who are mandated persons
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct, against staff or volunteers, of a child while availing of our services (Trust in Care)
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person
- Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of the HSE
- HSE Procedures for the Handling of Protected Disclosures
- HSE Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Procedures
- HSE Incident Management Framework

Putting this safeguarding statement into practice

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We will review this Child Safeguarding Statement every 2 years (24 months) or as soon as possible after there has been a material change in any matter to which it refers.

Review date: 31 August 2028

Name and title of service manager: Catherine Donohoe, Hospital Manager

Service manager signature:

For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact our relevant person:

Name: Catherine Walsh, Principal Medical Social Worker

Contact details: 094-9042100 socialwork.muh@hse