

SVUH (Corporate) Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Vincent's University Hospital is a voluntary hospital that provides a range of Health and Social Services to children and adults in its hospital. The hospital employs approximately 3,000 staff.

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people is a core objective and key priority for SVUH. Every member of staff has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of and /or attending our services is safe and protected from harm (physical /emotional/sexual abuse or neglect). SVUH 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 SVUH staff employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any person performing any role or function in , or on behalf of SVUH. This child safeguarding statement is informed by the following risk assessment.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1	Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-employment checks • Professional standards for Healthcare Staff (Professional Bodies' Codes of Conduct). • PPG-HR-31 Garda Vetting • Professional Registration for Healthcare Professionals • Policy for the Prevention and Management of Challenging Behaviour. • Trust in Care Policy • SVUH Child Protection and Welfare Policy (currently Medical Social Work Guidelines for the Management of Children). • Policies , protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery • PPG-ORG – 25 Guidelines for Obtaining Informed Patient Consent.
2.	Risk of harm to child from a service user adult or child visitor or member of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision/accompaniment /admission/public access policies as relevant to service provision • Staff supervision and training • Reporting procedure
3.	Risk of non-compliance with Children First Act and National Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children first Governance structure • Compliance monitoring and audit of funded and contracted services
4.	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff information, supervision and training. • Reporting procedure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting • 'An Introduction to Children First' mandatory training for all mandated persons and training for all other staff. Further training and support e.g. briefings for mandated persons available as necessary from the HSE Children's First National Office. • Consultation with service users (talking with and listening to the child: information leaflets for children: information regarding safe practice on admission: patient experience surveys).
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Procedures

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with a requirement under the Children's First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017). In addition to the procedure outlined in the risk assessment, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of SVUH.

- 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.
- Child Protection and Welfare policy outlining SVUH reporting procedure (to be developed).
- 'An Introduction to Children First' mandatory eLearning training for all mandated staff and training for all other staff with regard to the Children First Act 2015.
- Requirement on SVUH to maintaining a list of Mandated Persons.
- Appointment of relevant person to oversee the assessment of risk and development of service specified Child Safeguarding Statements as required.
- Integrated Risk Management policy to assess and manage any risk of harm.
- HSE Incident Management Framework and Guidance to inform SVUH Staff how to manage and review an incident.
- Open Disclosures policy.

SVUH has established Children First Governance Structures to support the implementation of the Children First across the hospital. An Implementation Committee has been established.

Implementation

The CEO is responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in the Child Safeguarding Statement are in place and operating effectively.

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been put in place and is available publically.

A relevant person has been identified to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement who ensures that any service specific risks are identified, and that additional policies and procedures are developed, implemented and reviewed as necessary to manage this risks.

This Corporate Child safeguarding statement will be revised on 01/03/2020, or as soon as practical after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Signed: _____



Professor Michael Keane

Acting CEO/St. Vincent's University Hospital