

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of Service:

National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh

The National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh (NOHC) is committed to ensuring that the children and young people who avail of our services are safe from harm.

**Description of service and activities provided:**

National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh (NOHC) is Ireland's major centre for elective orthopaedic surgery. NOHC has 101 inpatient beds and 35 day case beds including 6 paediatric beds. NOHC has a rehabilitation unit with 20 beds where patients are treated following an acute medical episode and transferred from Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown. NOHC provides paediatric orthopaedic services Cappagh Kids', which includes an outpatient unit and a paediatric inpatient unit with 16 beds for children under the age of 18 for elective orthopaedic procedures.

NOHC is a voluntary hospital, catering for both public and private patients. The hospital provides the full range of orthopaedic services including major joint replacement (ankle, hip, knee, foot, shoulder, elbow and wrist), spinal surgery, primary bone tumour service, paediatric orthopaedics and sports injuries.

In compliance with the HSE Child Safeguarding Statement every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child awaiting of our services is safe and protected from harm, physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect. The Child Safeguarding Statement applies to the all NOHC employees including students, trainees, contractors and any person performing any role or function in to on behalf of the NOHC. This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act (2015) and *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017).

**Principles to safeguard children from harm:**

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of the NOHC. The following principles are informed by Children First Guidance and legislation and support our intention to keep children safe from harm:

- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and to be taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- All children must be treated equally and have the right to be protected from discrimination, intolerance, harassment and bullying.
- Child protection is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary activity.
- Agencies and professionals must work together in the best interests of children.

**Risk Assessment:**

This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by an assessment of any potential for 'harm', to a child while availing of this service ('harm' as defined in the Children First Act 2015). Below is an amalgamated list of the main risks identified and the procedures in place for managing these risks. **A more detailed secondary risk assessment for this service is available on request.**

Risk Category	Main procedures and controls in place to manage risk identified
1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member, volunteer or student, including risks related to online activities	NOHC Child Protection and Welfare Policy and related policies and procedures NOHC Recruitment and Selection Procedures Professional registration for Health Care Professionals NOHC Trust in Care Policy Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers Protected Disclosures Procedures for the receipt and management of Protected Disclosures in NOHC and the HSE HSE National Consent Policy and NOHC Consent Policy and Procedures NOHC Disciplinary Procedure for Employees NOHC Care of Children in policy including supervision and chaperone requirements
2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, including risks related to online activities	NOHC Supervision, Admission, and visitor policies HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards and NOHC Email, IT and internet policy
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	Statutory and Mandatory Training Policy for Employees includes 'An Introduction to Children First' eLearning module NOHC Children Protection Training Policy NOHC Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedures Children First included in employee Induction and information for Mandated Persons HSE Children First National Office Training Disciplinary Procedure for Employees Protected Disclosures Procedures for the receipt and management of protected disclosures
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	Child Friendly Information about the Child Safeguarding Statement, recognising and reporting abuse and the NOHC Child protection and Welfare Policy
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance or policies	NOHC Children First Management and Implementation Policy Annual Children First Compliance Checklist and Compliance monitoring Bi-Annual Children First Compliance Progress Report Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons HSE Children First Governance and compliance monitoring measures in place HSE Children First National Office established to support implementation NOHC Quality and Control Assurance
6. Risk of harm to a child due to a service failing to ensure safe access to ICT (incl. social media, web access and electronic contact).	HSE National Information Technology Policies & Standards to ensure Online Safety Internet Content Filter Standard Supervision Guidelines for Children Attending and Visiting NOHC

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**Procedures - (All HSE National Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available at [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie))**

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), HSE Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Guidance issued by Tusla – Child and Family Agency. In addition to the policies and procedures named above, the following HSE policies and procedures also support our intention to safeguard children: HSE Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Procedures 2023 and HSE Incident Management Framework 2020.

**Implementation:**

Children First compliance is monitored by the NOHC Safeguarding Committee and reports to the RCSI Hospital Group Children First Steering Committee. The CEO is responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement are in place and operating effectively. A Relevant Person has been identified to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement to 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. All queries about this statement, and any associated risk assessments, should be directed to the Relevant Person. The Relevant Person appointed for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement is;

**Name:** Andrea Ward, Principal Medical Social Worker **Contact Details:** 01-8140325

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 24 months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

**Review Date:** 21st August 2026 **Date Signed:** 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024

**Service Address:** National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 EV29

**Name of Service Manager:** Angela Lee **Service Manager Title:** Chief Executive Officer

**Signature:** 