



Child Safeguarding Statement



The Health Service Executive (HSE), supported by Section 38 healthcare agencies provide 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 center 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:

National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 EV29

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

National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh (NOHC) is Ireland's major centre for elective orthopaedic surgery. NOHC has 95 inpatient beds (10 paediatric & 85 adult) and 35 day case beds (6 paediatric & 29 adult). NOHC has a rehabilitation unit with 20 beds where patients are treated following an acute medical episode and transferred from Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown and post-op patients from NOHC. NOHC provides paediatric orthopaedic services Cappagh Kids', which includes an outpatient unit and a paediatric inpatient unit with 10 beds for children under the age of 18 for elective orthopaedic procedures. NOHC is a voluntary hospital providing a 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 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).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting a Culture of Safety, Quality and Kindness: A Code of Conduct for Health and Social Service Providers
2. Risk of harm to a child, from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 recognizing or reporting a child protection or welfare concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSE National IT Security Policies, HSE procedures and guidelines for digital health HSE National Policy for social media and Data Protection Staff Use
7. Risk of harm to a child due to incorrect consent process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSE National consent policy (ED-HSE-12) (RF-NOHC-104) – Paediatric Procedure Consent Form
8. Risk of harm to a child due to absconding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> absconcion policy to support staff regarding potential absconding or missing patient / persons management local child protection policies and procedures
9. Risk of harm to a child when managing issues relating to suicide ideation and/or issues relating to self-harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicide Prevention Policy (PP-SW-25) Management of self-harm for paediatrics (IM-PAED-31)

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:

18th May 2026

Name and title of service manager:

Angela Lee, Chief Executive Officer

Service manager signature:

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

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