

Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital Child Safeguarding Statement

The Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital (CWIUH) was established in 1826 and is approaching nearly 200 years of caring for women and newborn babies. The hospital is now one of the largest providers of women and infant health care in the Republic of Ireland. We care for up to 10,000 pregnant women every year. In addition over 1,000 infants are admitted to the Neonatal Centre and over 8,000 gynaecological operations are performed. The hospital provides comprehensive care for women and infants at local, regional and national levels.

The CWIUH is a voluntary, non-denominational institution. It is governed by a Board of Guardians and Directors who appoint a Master as Chief Executive for a period of 7 years. The Master is also a Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist in the hospital. The Mission Statement of the hospital is "Excellence in the Care of Women and Babies"

Description of service and activities provided:
 The hospital operates a modern Multi-disciplinary Management Divisional System. There are seven major management divisions: Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Newborn Medicine, Peri-operative Medicine (Anaesthesia), Laboratory Medicine, Allied Health Professionals and General Administration. These divisions report to the Master, who is directly responsible to the Hospital Board. The CWIUH has 204 beds (maternity and gynaecology) and 40 cots in the Neonatal Centre.
 The CWIUH is situated on Dolphin's Barn Street, Dublin 8. Hospital staff including Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Midwives and Administrative staff also run satellite antenatal clinics in the Dublin, Kildare and Meath areas. These include; The Russell Building Health Centre, Tallaght, Rosse Court Health Centre, Lucan, Deansrath Health Centre, Clondalkin, Neilstown Health Centre, Clondalkin, Naas General Hospital, County Kildare. Antenatal education is provided to patients at; Naas General Hospital, County Kildare, Cherry Orchard Hospital, Dublin 10, Russell Building Health Centre, Tallaght, The Wisdom Centre, Dublin 8.
 There is an Early Transfer Home Service (ETHS) which as well as providing a midwifery service at antenatal clinics both in the CWIUH and in the outlying clinics, provides a postnatal midwifery service to mothers and babies discharged under the ETHS. This involves a mother and baby being visited in their home by a midwife between discharge from the hospital and the transfer of mother and baby to the care of the Public Health Nursing Service of the HSE - approximately Day 5 postnatally. There is also a Domino Service which provides antenatal care in the community to normal risk women, care in the delivery suite by the same group of midwives, with discharge home on the day after delivery and care at home until Day 5 postnatally.

Risk Assessment

This Child Safeguarding Statement was informed by a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. The CWIUH has identified five overarching risk categories (with the option of adding additional risks as necessary) that services use to assess any potential risk of harm to children and young people. The risks applicable to this Child Safeguarding Statement are:

1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member.
2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public (includes online risk).
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member.
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child.
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance in HSE services.
6. Other

Risk assessments are treated as live documents that are maintained and monitored as necessary and appropriate. All Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments carried out by the CWIUH list the procedures and control measures (both national and local) that are necessary and/or in place to mitigate any risks identified. Where necessary, risks are managed in line with the HSE Integrated Risk Management Policy. Queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment carried out by this service for the purpose of developing this Child Safeguarding Statement should be directed to the named relevant person.

Procedures

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed with due regard to, and in accordance with, 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. The following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of this service:

- Health and Safety Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm;
- Safety Incident Management Policy and alignment with the HSE incident management Framework 2018 to inform hospital management of any incident where a child has been harmed while availing of the service;
- Trust in Care Policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member;
- Recruitment policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are suitable to work with children (includes Garda Clearance/Vetting Policy);
- "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all staff.
- Child Protection and Welfare Policy 2020
- IT policies and procedures (includes Internet Acceptable Use Policy, Internet Content Filter and Firewall)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person (See named person below)
- A Procedure for recognising and managing a Child Protection and Welfare Concern (includes recording and reporting of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns to Tusla)
- An Additional Guidance Document in managing a Child Protection and Welfare Concern
- A Procedure for the introduction of Child Protection and Welfare training for staff at corporate and clinical inductions

Governance

Hospital Chief Executive Officers have operational responsibility for ensuring Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements are completed. Governance is supported through the HSE Children First Governance Structures.

Implementation

The CWIUH is committed to the implementation of the Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

Relevant Person

For Queries please contact Ms. Tanya Franciosa, Principal Medical Social Worker, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015 at tfanciosa@coombe.ie or 01 4085617.

Signed:



Date:
3/12/20

Professor Michael O'Connell
 Master/CEO

