



**THE
ROTUNDA
HOSPITAL**
DUBLIN

Ospidéal an Rotunda
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Child Safeguarding Statement

Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

The Rotunda Hospital has been in operation at the Parnell Square campus for 260 years, with the main inpatient building remaining in continuous use since the doors first opened on 8th December 1757, making the Rotunda Hospital the longest serving maternity hospital in the world.

The Rotunda remains an independent, Voluntary organisation operating under Charter with a Board of Governors and the Mastership System. Since the introduction of Hospital Groups in 2013, The Rotunda is the lead maternity centre for the RCSI Hospitals Group.

Over time the Rotunda has evolved into a 198-bed teaching hospital which provides specialist services in order to support women and their families at a local, regional and national level.

Specialist Services provided by The Rotunda:

- Maternity Services
- Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Neonatal Care
- Gynaecology Care

The specialist services provided by The Rotunda are fully supported by a range of sub-specialist services such as Anaesthetics, Haematology, Radiology, Psychiatry, and Allied Health Services within the Hospital, and joint services such as Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, and Infectious Diseases with acute adult hospitals.

Research Projects:

The Rotunda has five main research streams:

maternal medicine, fetal medicine, neonatology, infectious disease, health systems and education. Our efforts in providing outstanding care have been recognised in 2016 when The Rotunda was named Maternity Hospital of the Year 2016 at the Irish Healthcare Centre Awards.

Declaration of Guiding Principles

The Rotunda Hospital believes that the best interests of children and young people attending our services are paramount. Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*,

the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

Our guiding principles apply to all paid staff, board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All board members, staff and students must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

We will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner, if necessary, due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

Risk Assessment

Note: the definition of harm in relation to a child is: 'assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child'

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm of a child from a staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct PPGS-HR-3 ▪ Complaints Policy PPGS-QPSD-004 ▪ Corporate Induction Policy HR-GEN-024 ▪ Creation, Structure, Usage, Retention, Storage and Destruction of Records PPGS-IM-4 ▪ Disciplinary Procedure HR-GEN-003 ▪ Electronic Communication Policy IT- 008 ▪ Garda Vetting Policy HR-GEN-004 ▪ Management of Staff Education and Training HR-GEN-002 ▪ National Consent Policy PPGC-CLRK-1 ▪ Obtaining Consent Prior to Examination & Treatment CD-RM-CON-002 ▪ The Rotunda Child Protection and Welfare Policy – Reporting procedure PPGS-ORG-4 ▪ Trust in Care Policy HR-GEN-036 ▪ Safe Recruitment Policies and Procedures
2	Risk of harm to a child from a patient, visitor or member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Rotunda Child Protection and Welfare Policy – reporting procedure in place – PPGS-ORG-4 ▪ Visiting Policy HS-023 ▪ Baby Tagging Manual HS-012 ▪ Teenage Pregnancy Policy PPGC-OBS-29 ▪ Security Policy HS-006 ▪ Policy on permission for visitors or patients to make video, photographic or audio recordings CD-RM-CON-04

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff supervision and training policy - Management of Staff Education and Training – HR-GEN-002 ▪ Recent Rape/Sexual Assault National Guidelines on Referral and Forensic Clinical Examination in Ireland – EXT-NAT-1 ▪ Domestic Violence Routine Enquiry Guidelines for Hospital Staff PPGC – SOCW - 1
3	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Rotunda Child Protection and Welfare Policy – reporting procedure – PPGS-ORG-4 ▪ Algorithm of the Rotunda’s Procedures for Reporting Child Protection and Welfare Concerns Algorithm ▪ HSE Children First e-Learning mandatory for all staff ▪ Corporate Induction Policy – staff induction includes a session on Children First – HR-GEN-024 ▪ All new staff, including rotating NCHDs, receive information on completing the e-Learning module on HSELand in their pre-employment package ▪ Communication plan in place includes (a) Hospital broadcasts regarding the e-Learning module sent to everyone (b) Hospital CF Banners displayed within the hospital (c) Hospital CF briefing sessions ▪ Medical Social Work Guidelines/SOP on sharing patient information with Tusla/An Garda Siochana ▪ Incident Reporting and Management Policy – PPGG-ORG-4 ▪ Management of Staff Education and Training – HR-GEN-002
4	Risk of non-compliance with Children First legislation and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance Structures in place to support the Implementation of Children First ▪ RCSI Hospital Group Children First Steering Committee ▪ Rotunda Children First Implementation Plan ▪ Children First identified as a priority area in the hospital operational plan ▪ Hospital communication plan in place ▪ HSE Children First e-Learning mandatory for all staff ▪ Briefings on Children First taking place ▪ Continued support from HSE Children First National Office ▪ The Rotunda Hospital Risk Management Policy

Procedures

Our 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)*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our 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, including Garda vetting policy
- "An Introduction to Children First " mandatory e-Learning training for all staff
- The Rotunda Child Protection and Welfare Policy outlining the Rotunda's reporting procedure to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the Rotunda Hospital who are Mandated Persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. The relevant person is defined in the Children First Act as the person who is appointed by the Rotunda Hospital to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- The Rotunda Hospital Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm
- Incident Reporting and Management Policy to inform management of any incident where a child has been harmed whilst availing of our service
- The Rotunda Open Disclosure Policy

All procedures listed are available upon request.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 11th March 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

Professor Fergal Malone

Master of the Rotunda Hospital

For queries, please contact Sinead Devitt, Head Medical Social Worker, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015 at sdevitt@rotunda.ie or 01 8171722.