

Child Safeguarding Statement

The Rotunda Hospital has been unique as an institution in that it has continued to provide an unbroken record of service to women and babies since its foundation in 1745 and has occupied its present premises since 1757.

Nature of Service

The Rotunda Hospital is an independent, voluntary organisation operating under a 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.

The Rotunda has evolved into a 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 with acute adult hospitals, such as Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, and Infectious Diseases.

Rotunda Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of the Rotunda.

The following guiding principles to safeguard children from harm are informed by Children First Guidance and legislation:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- 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.
- Child protection is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the best interests of children.

Risk Assessment

The Child Safeguarding Statement was informed by an assessment, undertaken for this service, of any potential harm (risk) to a child while availing of this service. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rotunda Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure • Recruitment and selection procedures • Trust in Care Policy which includes the procedure for managing allegations of abuse made against a staff member • Code of Conduct Policy • Staff supervision policies • The Rotunda's Information Technology Policies & Standards
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision/accompaniment /admission policies • Public access policies • The Rotunda's Information Technology Policies & Standards
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all Rotunda staff • The Rotunda Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedures • Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons • Inclusion of Children First information in the Corporate Induction Programme • HSE Children First National Office Training and Resource Strategy
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all Rotunda staff • Child friendly information in relation to how to report if they feel unsafe
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance in the Rotunda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement • Children First Governance Structures in place • Internal Audit and compliance assurance measures



Note: The definition of harm in relation to a child is: “(a) 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 (b) sexual abuse of the child” (Children First 2015)

Note: This is an amalgamated list of risks, grouped into themes. The Statement has been informed by a more detailed secondary risk assessment document, which can be made available on request.

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), 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 policies and procedures also support our intention to safeguard children availing of the Rotunda services:

- Integrated Risk Management Policy to assess and manage any risk of harm
- Incident Reporting and Management Policy to inform HSE management of any incident where a child has been harmed while availing of the service

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015

Sinead Devitt

Head Medical Social Worker

Tel: **01 817 1722**

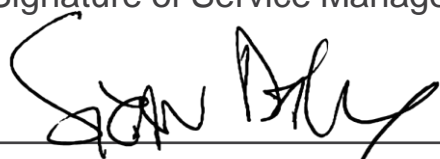
Email: **sdevitt@rotunda.ie**

All queries about this statement and the risk assessment it is informed by, should be directed to the Relevant Person.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing 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 2026 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signature of Service Manager:



Title: Master of The Rotunda Hospital

Print Name: Professor Sean Daly

Address: The Rotunda Hospital, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

