

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Michael's Hospital

Description of service and activities provided:

St. Michael's Hospital is an acute general voluntary hospital providing a range of specialised clinical services to the adults and children over the age of 16.

We offer facilities for pathological and radiological services, provide care for both medical and surgical patients, as well as outpatient clinics and services including cardiac rehabilitation, diabetes treatment, heart failure treatment, pulmonary rehabilitation.

In March 2002 St Michael's Hospital was incorporated with St Vincent's University Hospital and later with St Vincent's Private Hospital thus forming in 2003 the St Vincent's Healthcare group under the governance of the Board of Directors.

SMH Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities of St Michael's Hospital. 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	HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy (2023) SMH Supplementary Information to HSW CP&W Policy inc. Guidelines for Managing Welfare concerns and risk assessment for admission of adolescents (2021) Recruitment and Selection Procedures Professional Standards for Healthcare staff Professional Registration Garda Vetting STMH-HRD-POL-23 HSE Trust in Care Policy Voluntary Hospital Framework for the Prevention and Management of Behaviour that Challenges 2014 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 the HSE HSE National Consent Policy Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of SMH Internal wired network, fully firewalled from external threats guarded by Darkthreat detection for inbound and outbound network traffic. STMH- Guest and STMH Staff Wi-Fi are firewalled and content protection enabled. All networks are password protected.
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	Supervision/accompaniment/admission policies as relevant to local service Public access policies as relevant to local services Internal wired network, fully firewalled from external threats guarded by Threat detection for inbound and outbound network traffic. STMH- Guest and STMH Staff Wi-Fi are firewalled and content protection enabled. All networks are password protected.
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 SMH Employees includes 'An Introduction to Children First' eLearning module HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy (2023) and Reporting Procedure within SMH Supplementary Information to HSW CP&W Policy inc. Guidelines for Managing Welfare concerns and risk assessment for admission of adolescents (2021) Children First e-Learning training included in SMH Employee Induction HSE Children First National Office Training and Resource Strategy Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of the HSE SMH Open Disclosure Committee in situ SMH Protected Disclosure Policy SMH-ORG-POL-035
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 HSE Child Safeguarding Statements, recognising and reporting abuse HSE Child protection and Welfare Policy 2023 Complaints Policy and Procedures STMH-POL-QRD-005 Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance or policies	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 SMH Safeguarding Committee in place
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).	Internal wired network, fully firewalled from external threats guarded by Threat detection for inbound and outbound network traffic. STMH- Guest and STMH Staff Wi-Fi are firewalled and content protection enabled. All networks are password protected.

Procedures - (All HSE National Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance are available at 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 SMH & HSE policies and procedures also support our intention to safeguard children:

- SMH Risk Management Policy SMH-QRD-Pol-008
- HSE Incident Management Framework 2020

All queries about this statement, and any associated risk assessments, should be directed to the Relevant Person.

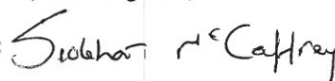
Relevant Person appointed for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement:

Name: Siobhan Mc Caffrey

Service Address: St Michael's Hospital, George's St. Lower, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

Name of Service Manager: Siobhan Mc Caffrey

Service Manager Title: Interim CEO

Signature: 

Date Signed: 18/6/26

Review Date: June 2028

Please note, 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.