

Child Safeguarding Statement

- 1. Name of service being provided:** GP SURGERY
- 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm** (*brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children*):

- General Practitioners whereby patients are seen in Surgery and on Domiciliary Visits.
- Risk Assessments carried out and managed.
- Recruitment of Staff ensuring suitability to work with Children.
- Provision of instruction and guidance to staff in relation to the identification of harm to children
- Reporting to Tusla if necessary
- Maintain a list of mandated persons
- Appointment of a relevant Person for the purpose of maintaining above list.

3. Risk Assessment

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	If a child attends the practice unaccompanied by an adult/guardian, they may be left alone with other patients in the waiting room.	Children under 16 should only attend with a parent /guardian other than in exceptional circumstances.
2	A child may have contact with permanent and locum doctors and permanent /temporary nurses within the practice.	All staff and locums will be required to undertake to read the Child Safeguarding statement and also as part of induction.
3	A child may come into contact with permanent and temporary administrative staff within the practice.	All staff and locums will be required to undertake to read the Child Safeguarding statement and also as part of induction.

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4	A child may come into contact with trade/delivery people within the practice.	No child is to be left in Surgery unsupervised.
5	Child goes to bathroom unaccompanied.	No child is to be left in Surgery unsupervised.
6	Child seeing GP unaccompanied	Only under exceptional circumstances. Doctor/nurse will inform other members of staff what is happening and a chaperone will be offered.
7	Domicillary Visits, Child unaccompanied	GP will request chaperone.

4. 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:

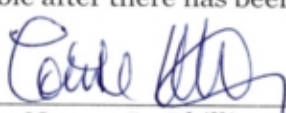
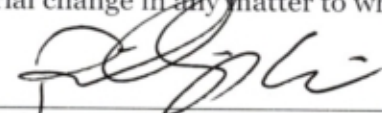
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. 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 1st May 2019, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:   (Providers)
Dr Louise Nestor, Dr Phillip Kieran, Washington Street Medical Centre.

For queries, please contact Dr Nestor, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.