



Saint John of God Hospital and Ginesa Suite

Saint John of God Hospital is a service of the Saint John of God Hospitaller Services. The Hospital currently provides specialist services in Substance Misuse, Psychotic Disorders, Eating Disorders, Psychiatry of Later Life and Adolescent Disorders.

Saint John of God Hospital is committed to promoting the wellbeing of all adults and children within its services and providing a caring environment where all people are treated with dignity and respect at all times. Saint John of God Hospital is committed to the safeguarding of children from abuse, regarding the welfare of children as being of paramount importance and to ensuring that its staff and services are equipped to prevent harm to children and, where it occurs, to intervening urgently to address the situation and prevent any harm from escalating. It acknowledges that all children have the right to be safe and to live a life free from abuse. In this regard Saint John of God Hospital has a zero tolerance for abuse and adheres to The Children First Act 2015 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Risk Assessment:

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services as follows:

- *Risks to children visiting the Hospital or who are on the hospital grounds for sport and recreational purposes:* see SJOG Hospital Visits (Regulation 11) Policy (Rev. 7). Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and are expected to remain with the adult who is supervising them.
- *Risks to children/young persons who are patients of Saint John of God Hospital:* The Adolescent Unit/Ginesa Suite has a Risk Register identifying potential risks to the children in its service and control measures to mitigate these risks. Children attending for outpatient appointments must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- *Risks to children who attend meetings at Saint John of God Hospital as part of their parent's/relative's treatment:* Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. All staff who facilitate these meetings receive training on Children First which meets the standards set out in "Best Practice Principles for Organisations in Developing Children First Training Programmes", TUSLA, 2017.

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*, 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:

- Policy & Procedures for Managing Allegations of Abuse Against Staff (February 2016) & Trust In Care Policy & Procedures (May 2005).
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children: Saint John of God Hospital c/g Human Resources Policy 29.07.2022.
- Child Safeguarding Training is mandatory for all staff and volunteers.
- Procedure for Reporting Internal Safeguarding concerns is set out in Reporting Internal Safeguarding Concerns SOP 20.01.2021.

A list of all mandated persons working in Saint John of God Hospital is maintained by the Human Resources Department.

Saint John of God Hospital commits to the following:

The staff induction process to ensure that newly recruited staff members understand their responsibilities under the:

- Reporting Internal Safeguarding Concerns Standard Operating Procedure.
- That all staff complete the HSE e-Learning Module “An Introduction to Children First”.
- That all Mandated Persons working in the organisation complete TUSLA Mandated Person e Learning Module.
- That staff who work directly with children receive training on Children First which meets standards set out in “Best Practice Principles for Organisations in Developing Children First Training Programmes”, TUSLA, 2017.

Reporting Procedures for all Staff:

All Saint John of God Hospital staff have a duty to inform TUSLA when they have reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected. Mandated Persons comply with their legal obligation to make a Mandated Report to TUSLA when they have any knowledge, belief or reasonable suspicion that a child has been harmed, is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed in accordance with the harm thresholds set out in Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children. Mandated Persons comply fully with the TUSLA Children First Protocol for Mandated Assisting. Where a parent/child is involved with different services it is essential that staff work co-operatively and share information in the best interest of the child and within the boundaries of confidentiality. This includes the sharing of records as appropriate with the Child and Family Agency (TUSLA) and An Garda Síochána.

Saint John of God Hospital complies fully with The Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012. In doing so any staff member who has information about a serious offence against a child, which may result in charges or prosecution, will report this to An Garda Síochána.

Saint John of God Hospital has a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) to ensure that the standard reporting procedure is followed and is in compliance with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

Relevant Person under the Children first Act 2015 is appointed by Ms Emma Balmaine, Chief Executive.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

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 in December 2023, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 
Emma Balmaine,
Chief Executive
Tel: 01 277 1400

Date 16 June 2023

For queries, please contact Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015:

- Grainne Lawlor, Designated Liaison Person
- Shirley Gleeson, Designated Liaison Person
- Alina Popescu, Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Tel: 01 277 1400