

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided:

- St Paul's Overnight Respite
- St Paul's Day Service

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

In 1970, The Sisters of Mercy, under the auspices of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, established the service, which was named St Paul's Hospital and is now named St Paul's Child & Family Care Centre (St Paul's CFCC). St. Paul's Special National School, which sits on the same campus as St Paul's CFCC, at Beaumont Woods, opened in 1971. Both St Paul's CFCC and St Paul's Special School operate on an overlapping relationship between the Department of Health and Children and the Department of Education and Science.

St. Paul's Hospital (now St Paul's CFCC) was established as a public service, specialising in the assessment and care of children, aged between 4 to 18 years, with autism and associated co-morbidities. Initially a national service, St. Paul's CFCC is now funded by the Health Service Executive to provide a service to HSE CHO9.

Our service provides supports through a Day Service (currently piloting), overnight respite for children with autism and the provision of Clinical Supports to children enrolled in St. Paul's Special School. The Day Centre is situated in the main campus of St Paul's CFCC and the overnight respite supports in the surrounding community. The three overnight respite Designated Centres that are situated in the community are as follows; St. Paul's Coolatree (Beaumont), St. Paul's Dromawling (Beaumont) and St. Paul's Santry (Santry).

St Paul's CFCC takes a zero tolerance approach to child protection. All staff complete Children's First Training along with Protection of Vulnerable Adults training.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. 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 (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff must have read and sign St Paul's CFCC's Child Protection and Welfare Policy STP0026. • Service provides Trust in Care Training every two years to all staff. Service adheres to HSE Trust in Care Policy. Information regarding child protection / family supports will be sent to new respite house if an internal transition takes place as per St Paul's Transition Policy STP0058 • Information regarding child protection / family supports will be sent to new respite house if an internal transition takes place as per St Paul's

		<p>Transition Policy STP0058</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff must complete 'An Introduction to Children First' mandatory eLearning training • All staff are aware of St Paul's CFCC's procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla. • Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers are in place to work with children as per Recruitment Selection Policy STP0061. • St Paul's CFCC maintains a list of all Mandated Persons listed in the Children's First Act 2015 as per St Paul's CFCC Procedure for Maintain a list of Mandated Persons STP –P017 • St Paul's CFCC has a procedure in place to appoint a Relevant Person in line with Children's First Act 2015 as per St Paul's CFCC Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person STP –P016. • Risk Management Policy STP0054 to assess and manage any risk of harm to children. • St Paul's Safety Statement STP0000 to insure St Paul's management are aware of measures needed to maintain and ensure child protection safety in the service. • Promote a culture of zero tolerance of child abuse or neglect. • Professional and clinical supervision is in place as per Supervision Policy STP0055. • All staff are Mandated Persons and are aware of their legal obligation to report concerns of Child protection to Tusla in accordance to the Children's First Act 2015. • Staff / parents can link with Designated Officer / Social Worker / PIC/ management regarding any Child Protection information / support. All policies available on request.
2	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per St Paul's CFCC's Visitor Policy STP0041 all non St Paul's CFCC staff / School staff and visitors must report to reception and sign in and out when visiting the centre. • All non St Paul's CFCC / School staff will be accompanied by a St Paul's staff member while on site Code of Behaviour for Staff as per <i>St Paul's</i> CFCC Code of Practice STP0020 • Professional and clinical supervision in place for

		<p>staff as per Supervision policy STP0055</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Restrictive Practices are discussed and agreed to by the families parents – Restrictive Practices Policy and Procedures STP0027 • Procedure for Reporting Body Marks STP-P03 • Intimate Care Policy STP0022 • Restrictive Practices Policy and Procedures STP0027 • Relationships and Sexuality Policy STP0003
3	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for the Safe Transition between School Setting and Designated Centres STP-P04 • St Paul's CFCC Outdoor Activity Procedure STP-P07 • St Paul's Volunteer Policy STP0057
4	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through the use of unauthorised photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Paul's CFCC Policy on the use of internet and photographic and recording devices STP 00073 • St Pauls Anti Bullying Policy STP007 • St Pauls Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy STP0028
5	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through social media/internet use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Paul's CFCC Policy on the use of internet and photographic and recording devices STP 00073 • St Pauls Anti Bullying Policy STP007
6.	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by bullying by a peer or older child/ young person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Pauls Anti Bullying Policy STP007 • St. Paul's CFCC Policy on the use of internet and photographic and recording devices STP 00073

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:

- St Paul's CFCC maintains a list of all Mandated Persons listed in the Children's First Act 2015 as per St Paul's CFCC Procedure for Maintain a list of Mandated Persons STP- P017
- St Paul's CFCC has a procedure in place to appoint a Relevant Person in line with Children's First Act 2015 as per St Paul's CFCC Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person STP - P016.
- All staff must complete 'An Introduction to Children First' mandatory eLearning training as outlined in St Paul's Staff Training and Education Policy STP0044
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers are in place to work with children as per Recruitment Selection Policy STP0061
- All staff must have read and sign St Paul's CFCC's Child Protection and Welfare Policy STP0026

- Follow procedure outlined in St Paul's CFCC's Child Protection and Welfare Policy STP0026 regarding allegation of abuse or misconduct against workers / volunteers of a child availing of the service
- Follow procedure as outlined on St Paul's CFCC's Child Protection and Welfare Policy STP0026 regarding reporting a child protection concern to Tusla
- All staff to complete safeguarding training and information including the identification of the occurrence of harm as outlined in St Paul's CFCC's Child Protection and Welfare Policy STP0026 and St Paul's Staff Training and Education Policy STP0044
- Procedure for Reporting Body Marks STP - P03

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 31st of January 2025, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.



Signed:

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For queries, please contact Niamh Salter, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.