

Child Safeguarding Statement

Summerhill Family Practice

This is a General Medical practice providing primary medical care to the local community. This is in the form of primary, personal and continuing care to all age groups at Summerhill Family Practice. We have daily contact with children necessitating physical examinations. We in the practice are committed to safeguarding children as a core part of your work. Children will be accorded equal respect to all other patients, but their physical safety is primarily the parent/guardian's responsibility while on the premises.

| Risk identified | Procedure to manage risk: |
|---|---|
| 1. Unaccompanied minors attending doctor or nurse. | All people under 15 years need to be accompanied by parent, guardian, or other adult verbally designated to us by the parent or guardian. People 15-18 are encouraged to have parental consent and knowledge of their visit here. |
| 2. Unaccompanied children in waiting room. | Where possible children should accompany their parent to the doctor/nurse room but if this is impractical e.g. due to lack of space or privacy, then another family member should be present if possible, in the waiting room. The reception staff cannot be responsible for such children. |
| 3. Physical risk in the waiting room or clinical room. | A risk assessment has been carried out and hazards identified and minimised as far as possible but again the parent/guardian are primarily responsible for maintaining the child's safety on the premises. |
| 4. Unaccompanied physical examination of minors. | Physical examinations of minors will only take place with parent or guardian present and aware of reason for examination. |
| 5. Other risks as brought to our attention by the public. | We will endeavour to assess and manage any other risks as far as possible. |

Risk assessment (specific to minors).

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide or 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 (*private discussion with complainant, and referral onwards to Tusla*)
- ⇒⇒ Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children (*all relevant staff have been Garda vetted*)
- ⇒⇒ Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including identification of the occurrence of harm (all relevant staff have completed Children First training)
- ⇒⇒ Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla (*referral by phone and in writing as necessary*)
- ⇒⇒ Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons (*the GPs and the practice nurse*)
- ⇒⇒ Procedure for appointing a relevant person (*Dr Shanahan or Dr Byrne are permanent GPs in the practice so either are 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 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Dr Brid Shanahan Dr Daragh Byrne

For queries, please contact Dr Brid Shanahan or DR Daragh Byrne as the Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015. Mandated person and registered medical practitioner within the meaning of section 2 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.