



ST MICHAEL'S HOUSE

CORPORATE CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Details of Service

St. Michael's House provides a comprehensive range of services and supports to over 2,300 children and adults with disabilities in the greater Dublin area and Navan, Co. Meath. The service employs over 1,800 staff. There are approximately over 1,370 children availing of St Michael's House services.

2. Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

The service incorporates residential and respite services, clinical and social support services. It is also the Patron body for six Special National Schools. Supports and interventions are provided in clinic, residential, school, community and home based settings. St Michael's House Children's Disability Network Teams, children's respite and residential services have risk assessments and Child Safeguarding Statement specific to the service area.

The safety, welfare and promoting the development of children and young people is a core objective and key priority for St. Michael's House. Every staff member has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that every child and young person is safe and protected.

The Children First Act 2015 defines "harm" in relation to a child;

"...assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise."

St. Michael's House is explicit in promoting a 'no tolerance' approach to any form of abuse and endeavours to promote a culture which supports this ethos. It recognises that all children have the right to be protected from harm and discrimination whatever their: race, religion, first language or ethnicity, gender or sexuality, age, health or disability, location or placement, political or immigration status (Article 2, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

St. Michael's House policies and procedures have been developed to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise and to manage it safely where it does. The policies, procedures and control measures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all St. Michael's House staff and contractors. Further information on policies, protocols, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice and service delivery can be found in our Child Safeguarding policy

3. Risk Assessment

The Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by a comprehensive risk assessment. The Risk Categories are detailed below:

	Risk Identified	Procedure/Controls in place to manage risk identified (this is not an exhaustive list)
1.	Risk of harm to a child from a member of staff (employee, volunteer and student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garda Vetting Volunteers policy Recruitment & Selection Policy Professional registration for healthcare professionals Procedures for reporting and management of allegations of abuse against a staff member & Volunteer. Procedures in regard to a staff member subject to an investigation are informed by Trust in Care Policy. St. Michael's House Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Lone Working Policy Policy on use of Restrictive Practices Children's First Online Training mandatory for all staff Incidents of Harm of a child when availing of services is reported in line with HSE Incident Management Framework (2018)
2	Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public, online safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of supervision as per risk assessment. Visitors Policy Child Supervision Policy Staff supervision and training policies Reporting procedure Anti-bullying policy. Online safety Protocol Data Protection Impact Policy
3	Risk of non-compliance with Children's First Act and National Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's First compliance checklist for Section 38 and 39 funded and contracted services Child Safeguarding Policy which outlines clear reporting procedures and obligations. Staff training on Policy in place. Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons employed by the organisation. Review & learning from each screening/investigation. Children's Safeguarding panel is in place. Contractors sign off on compliance with Children's First policy
4	Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New staff members must have completed Children's First online training and the in-house safeguarding training before beginning work with service users All staff members receive safeguarding refresher training on a three yearly basis Contact details of the Designated Liaison Person are on display in every St. Michael's House unit Clear reporting procedures are in place Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting Safeguarding is an item on agenda at staff meetings.

4. Relevant Person

The relevant person is appointed in line with the SMH Recruitment and Selection Policy, along with specifications for the role and is the point of contact in respite of the Child Safeguarding Statement.

- Name of Relevant Person: **Catherine Rafter | Designated Liaison Person**
- Contact details: **Address:** St Michael's House, Ballymun Road, Ballymun, D09 DX37 **Telephone:** 01 8840200 | **Email:** catherine.rafter@smh.ie

5. Implementation

St. Michael's House 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 Quarter One 2026, or a soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers. Risk Assessments will be reviewed frequently and updated in line with any additional changes to service.



Tracey McKenna | Director of Children's & Young Persons Service
1 September 2024