

*Ionad Leighis Ard Fhearta
Ardfert Medical Centre
Farranwilliam, Ardfert, Tralee, Co. Kerry*

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided:

Ardfert Medical Centre, Farranwilliam, Ardfert, Co Kerry

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

Ardfert Medical Centre is a four-doctor teaching practice committed to providing a range of physical and mental health services to patients ranging in age from birth to end of life. Children are also seen by two qualified nurses in their role as practice nurses. Medical services to children include (not an exhaustive list):

- developmental assessments,
- periodic childhood assessments,
- provision of vaccination programmes,
- care of children with acute infections
- children presenting with injuries
- care of children with chronic or life limiting conditions
- care of children with mental health concerns

It is the policy of Ardfert Medical Centre to regard the welfare of children as being of paramount importance and to ensure that its staff, are equipped to prevent harm to children, and where it occurs to intervene urgently to address the situation and prevent any harm from escalating. We are committed to providing care for the children accessing our service in a safe environment where they are assured of protection from abuse in all its forms. Children have the right to have a parent or person acting in loco parentis with them at all times while in the practice provided that this is in the best interest of the child and does not compromise the rights of other children. Children and their parents are involved in all decisions about their care.

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	Risk of not being fully compliant with Children First	Staff training Guidelines in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Protection Guidelines for Good Practice• Training, Education & Competence Guideline• Copy of legislation available to all staff
2	Risk to children availing of service from a member of staff	Staff vetting Recruitment procedures Chaperonage Parental presence when being examined

3	Risk to children availing of the service from other service users / members of the public	Children never on their own while in the practice Be aware of family circumstances Be aware of potential conflict of interest situations Guidelines in place
4	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported by staff	Staff training Guidelines in place
5	Risk of harm or concern not being reported by children in the context of them not knowing how to report a concern	Appropriate communication with the child Listening to them Giving them information Having information readily available eg waiting room, treatment room, doctors rooms, noticeboards, website etc Guidelines in place

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 by a child availing of our service; (Child Protection Guidelines for Good Practice)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children; (Guidelines for Recruitment)
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm; (Child Safeguarding Training)
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla; (Child Protection Guidelines for Good Practice)
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons; (Child Protection Guidelines for Good Practice)
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person. (Practice partners)

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 in May 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.