

Keeping Children Safe

The National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) provides a comprehensive range of specialist rehabilitation services to adult and paediatric patients from throughout Ireland who, as a result of an accident, illness or injury have acquired a physical or cognitive disability and require a specialist interdisciplinary programme of rehabilitation.

The NRH has 4 Programmes:

1. **Acquired Brain Injury** (including traumatic brain injury, non-traumatic brain injury, and Stroke or other neurological conditions)
2. **Spinal Cord System of Care** (including traumatic, and non-traumatic spinal cord injury)
3. **Prosthetic, Orthotic and Limb Absence Rehabilitation** (POLAR)
4. **Paediatric Family-Centred Rehabilitation**

The NRH provides services through inpatient or day-patient programmes, outpatient (OPD) clinics or treatment sessions and through outreach services to other hospitals, clinics and educational settings.

The safeguarding and welfare of children and young people in our care is a key priority. We have a duty of care not just to our patients but to all children we come into contact with, for example children visiting the hospital or children of adult patients attending for family services. We acknowledge the rights of children to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and have their views taken into consideration.

Inpatient, Day patient and Outpatient Treatment for children and young people referred to the NRH generally takes place at the Rochestown Avenue site. Outreach and consultation services for children and young people may be delivered at Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Tallaght Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, St James Hospital, the Mater Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Cork University Hospital or other hospitals where young people under 18 years have been referred to an NRH Consultant.

Prosthetic clinics for both adults and children are offered in a number of locations around the country. The NRH provides consultant led adult service clinics in Enable Ireland and the CRC. Where appropriate, home visits may take place as well as visits to schools or other relevant services. In some instances, services for children are contracted in to the NRH, or we may ask other experts on-site for consultations or to provide specialist services.

It is the policy of the Hospital that children 18 years of age or under will be admitted to the care of the Consultant in Paediatrics and paediatric team. From time to time it is agreed with the Paediatric team that, in the best interest of an adolescent or young person aged between 16 and 18 years that he/she be admitted to the adult service. Pre-admission planning and consultation is carried out to ensure that adolescents are admitted to an environment that is appropriate to their needs within the resources available. Younger children are admitted to the Children's Ward on a 5 day basis and have access to their own Paediatric Day Unit during daytime hours with access to a paediatric specific gym. Our school is run by the Department of Education on-site.

The Hospital operates a family centred approach and children go home every weekend if at all possible. We provide accommodation for a parent to stay on or near the NRH site when a child is admitted for inpatient rehabilitation. We encourage parental and sibling involvement in treatment programmes. We recruit relevant staff trained in Paediatric care. We facilitate a parent forum resource to encourage feedback on the service.

Risk Assessment of potential harm to children whilst availing of our services:

The NRH has carried out an organisational risk assessment of all its services to reduce any potential risks to children. The Paediatric service operates within a setting which also provides services to adults. We typically have children accessing our service who have particular needs in terms of physical, cognitive or communication needs (or a combination of these needs).

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*.

We have a range of policies and procedures in place to safeguard children including:

- Safeguarding of Children and Young People in The NRH
- Paediatric Intimate and Personal Care Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Admission of Adolescents (16 – 18 years old) onto Adult wards
- Paediatric Patients attending Hydrotherapy
- Sexual Wellbeing
- Management of Behaviour that Challenges
- Responding to Reported Risk
- Policy on Gifts and Hospitality
- NRH Visiting Policy
- Incident Management
- Contractor's Safety Code
- Handling Complaints

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 services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child while availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in our service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

The risk assessment and a full list of policies and procedures is available on request.

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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 10th March 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Derek Greene
Chief Executive
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For Queries, please contact: Derek Greene who is the Relevant Person under the Children's First Act 2015 or Anne O'Loughlin, Principal Social Worker/Designated Liaison Person

May 2018