

Shannondoc Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of the Service provided

Shannondoc is an urgent out of hours GP service providing medical care to patients whose GP is a member of the Shannondoc co-operative. Shannondoc operates from a Central Call Centre in Limerick and 12 Treatment Centres strategically located in the Mid-West region. Shannondoc operates from a Central Call Centre in Limerick and 12 Treatment Centres strategically located in the Mid-West region.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Our mission is to constantly improve the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents in a safe environment. The safety and welfare of children and young adults is a priority for Shannondoc. Every staff member associated with Shannondoc has a responsibility to ensure that every child/ young person is safe and protected from harm while attending our service. Shannondoc is committed to fulfilling its obligations as an organisation by implementing and complying with The Children First Act 2015.

Risk Assessment

Shannondoc has carried out an assessment of any potential risk of harm to a child while availing of our services. This risk does not include risks to general health and safety Safeguarding risks as identified in the following service areas:

1. Telephone correspondence
2. Treatment centre
3. Home care carried out by Shannondoc.
4. Interactions with other services.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk to children in receipt of services from a member of staff.(including students, locum and agency staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment Policy is in line with the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. ○ Pre-employment checks. • Completion of mandatory Children First e-learning programme • System to monitor compliance with mandatory training • Professional standards for healthcare staff • Professional registration /code of conduct for health care staff • Children’s first national guidance (2015) available on local intranet • Local algorithm on reporting suspected child protection concerns on local intranet. • Parent/guardian advised of need to accompany children on all occasion while attending Shannondoc. • Local procedures in place for management of allegations against a staff member. • HSE Trust in care policy • Dignity and Respect Policy.
2	Risk of harm to a child from another adult or child availing of the service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All child presentations to be under the supervision of a parent or a responsible adult. • Any child presentations without a parent or adult to be flagged and reported. • Staff supervision and training. • Supervision of a patient by a sibling allowed only if over 18 years of age. • Reporting procedure in place
3	Risk of harm or concerns not being recognised or reported by staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking of compliance with mandatory e-learning training programme. • Maintenance of a list of staff who are mandated persons under the Act. • Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting specified in Children First on-line training and information session.
4	Risk of non-compliance with Children’s First Act and National Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance monitoring and audit

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:

1. Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service in line with rust in Care policy.
 2. Policy for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
 3. Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
 4. Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
 5. Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
 6. Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
 7. Designation of a relevant staff member to oversee the assessment of risk under the Children's First Act 2015.
- All procedures listed are available upon 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 service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 7th September 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: *Mike Finucane* [Shannondoc General Manager]

For queries, please contact Claire McMahon, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.
Contact Details: childsafeguarding@shannondoc.ie / Telephone: 9.00am- 5.30pm 061459527/

Outside of these hours contact 061 459500 to speak with a nurse or doctor

If the child welfare concern is urgent or emergency, please discuss with the on-duty doctor or nurse

If the child welfare concern is an emergency, contact the Gardaí on 999