

**Name of Service:** The Children’s Sunshine Home, operating as LauraLynn Ireland’s Children’s Hospice. This includes LauraLynn Children’s Hospice and Hazel House Children’s Disability Services.

**Description of Service:** LauraLynn Children’s Hospice is committed to safeguarding children from harm and focuses on enhancing quality of life, including physical comfort and well-being, as well as the social, emotional and spiritual aspects of care. We provide a range of practical and emotional supports from diagnosis to end of life, through to bereavement. Care is evidenced based, and provided by an interdisciplinary team of health and social care professionals in the hospice, the family home, the hospital or community setting dependent on the family’s preference and medical needs of the child. The Children’s Disability Respite Service supports children with complex intellectual and physical disabilities and their families through regular, out of home, planned respite breaks.

**Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm:** We remain true to our core values of Compassion, Collaboration and Excellence and are guided by the Children’s Childcare Act 1991, Children First Act 2015 and the UNCRC. The safety, welfare and development of children and young people is a core objective and key priority for the Service. Every member of staff has a responsibility, and duty of care, to ensure that every child / young person availing of our service is safe and protected from harm (physical/emotional/sexual abuse/neglect). Policies and procedures are in place to promote safe environments for all users in order to mitigate the potential for risk to arise, and to manage it safely, if it arises. Such policies and procedures apply to all LauraLynn and Hazel House staff: employees, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any persons performing a role or function in, or on behalf of the Service.

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment** – This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by an assessment of potential for ‘harm’, to a child / young person while availing of this service (‘harm’ as defined in the Children First Act 2015). Below is an amalgamated list of the main risks identified and the procedures in place for managing these risks. **A more detailed secondary risk assessment for this service is available on request.**

Risk identified		Procedures in place to manage the risk identified
1.	Risk of harm to a child / young person from a member of staff / volunteer  (Examples may include but not limited to: bullying, rough handling of a child/young person, shouting / chastising, supervision etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-employment checks incl. Garda Vetting Policy Ref 3.29</li><li>• Policy on Staff Recruitment Ref 3.1 and Volunteers Ref 3.4</li><li>• Professional Standards for Better Safer Healthcare 2023</li><li>• Professional Registration for healthcare staff – such as CORU, An Bord Altranas, IMC</li><li>• Code of Conduct Policy for all staff, Ref: 3.3</li><li>• Trust in care policy (HSE)</li><li>• HSE Child protection and welfare policy (2024)</li><li>• Staff Induction and Mandatory Training Procedures</li><li>• Protected Disclosures of Information (Whistleblowing) Policy, Ref: 1.5</li><li>• Intimate care policy, Ref: 4.4</li><li>• Restrictive practice policy, Ref: 4.8</li><li>• Manual Handling policy, Ref: 7.2</li><li>• Positioning Care Plans</li><li>• Incident Management Policy, Ref: 7.4</li><li>• Risk Management Policy, Ref:7.1</li><li>• Security Policy, Ref: 2.6</li><li>• Visiting Children Policy, Ref 4.6</li><li>• Patient Safety Insurance Certificate</li><li>• Rostering Procedure Palliative Care Services Ref ND015 (B)</li><li>• LauraLynn Children’s Hospice Services &amp; Hazel House Children’s Respite Service Outings Policy, Ref 4.20</li></ul>
2	Risk of harm to a child / young person from a service user (adult / child), visitor or member of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Care plans in place and updated</li><li>• Supervision/accompaniment in place for visitors and members of public – Visiting Children Policy, Ref: 4.6</li><li>• Family Accommodation Policy, Ref 4.18</li><li>• Babysitting, Childminding and Sibling Supervision SOP 044</li><li>• Security Policy, Ref 2.6</li><li>• Restricted access / Visitor Signing in procedure – badges only</li><li>• Children First National Guidance 2017 (Amendment 2019 to include online safety).</li><li>• Staff supervision and training</li><li>• Alerts on EHR Care Database</li></ul>
3	Risk of harm by use of unauthorised photography or from online abuse through social media or internet access  (Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: poor management of images or recordings of children, including those shared publicly or on social media – use / misuse of digital images	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Security Policy, Ref: 2.6</li><li>• Use of Information Technology, Internet/Data and Email Policy, Ref: 2.5</li><li>• Social Media Policy, Ref: 2.4</li><li>• Mobile Devices Policy, Ref: 2.7</li><li>• Security Policy, Ref 2.6</li><li>• Use of Communication Technology in LauraLynn House SOP, Ref: SOP020</li><li>• GDPR Procedures Manual, Ref: 2.8</li><li>• GDPR Policy Manual, Ref 2.2</li><li>• Code of Conduct Policy for all staff, Ref: 3.3</li><li>• Child Protection and Welfare Policy, Ref: 5.1</li></ul>
4	Risk of harm of a child / young person on outings by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-employment checks incl. Garda Vetting</li><li>• Professional standards for healthcare staff</li><li>• Professional registration for healthcare staff</li><li>• Code of Conduct Policy for all staff, Ref: 3.3</li><li>• Transport Policy, Ref: 8.1</li><li>• Risk Management Policy, Ref: 7.1</li><li>• Incident Management Policy, Ref: 7.4</li><li>• LauraLynn Children’s Hospice Services &amp; Hazel House Children’s Respite Service Outings Policy, Ref 4.20</li></ul>
5	Risk of abuse by staff and volunteers not knowing correct procedures (Examples of risk include, but are not limited to: not reporting appropriate concerns, non-compliance with Children’s First Act and National Guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Protection and Welfare Policy, Ref: 5.1</li><li>• Mandatory Children First e-learning training for mandated persons</li><li>• Identification and responsibilities of the designated liaison persons, including reporting processes identified in policy Ref: 5.1</li><li>• Child Protection Audits completed minimum yearly.</li><li>• Staff information, supervision and training</li><li>• Complaints and Feedback Policy, Ref: 1.3</li><li>• Incident Management Policy, Ref: 7.4</li><li>• Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting</li></ul>
6	Risk of harm to a child due to a Child Protection / Welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E-learning An Introduction to Children First</li><li>• Child Protection and Welfare Policy Ref 5.1</li><li>• Child Friendly Safeguarding Poster displayed</li><li>• Use of interpreters, communication aids / devices</li></ul>

**Procedures:**  
LauraLynn Ireland’s Children’s Hospice Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, *HSE Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Guidance issued by Tusla – Child and Family Agency*. In addition to the policies and procedures named above, the following procedures and committees 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,
- Procedure for the provision and access to child safeguarding training and information including the identification of the occurrence of harm and reporting procedures for child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla (Ref No: 5.1 Child Protection & Welfare Policy).
- Requirement on the Service to identify and keep a list of the mandated persons in the organisation and ensure they are aware of their responsibilities
- Quality, Risk and Safety Committee

All queries about this Statement, and any associated risk assessments, should be directed to the Relevant Person.  
The Relevant Person appointed for the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement is

**Name:** Kerry McLaverty      **Contact Details:** CEO, The children’s Sunshine Home, Operating as LauraLynn Irelands Children’s Hospice, Leopardstown Road, Foxrock, D18 X063 Tel: 012893151

6. **Implementation:** We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every 24 months or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.