

Child Safeguarding Statement

This 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*

Name of service: South West Doctors on Call Company Limited by Guarantee is an out of hours family doctor service for urgent medical needs.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

SouthDoc is a service, which provides access to family doctor services outside of normal surgery hours. SouthDoc operates from a Central Call Centre in Killarney and from 27 Treatment Centres located throughout Cork and Kerry where all staff have an essential role in maintaining the operations of the service.

SouthDoc is committed to safeguarding children while they attend our service and to fulfilling its obligations by implementing and complying with the Children's First Act 2015. As an organisation we are obliged to

- Keep children safe from harm
- Complete a risk assessment
- Prepare this safeguarding statement
- Appoint a relevant person

Under the Child Care Act 1991, the definition of a child is anyone under the age of 18 who is not married.

Risk Assessment

This risk assessment has evaluated safeguarding risk of potential harm to a child from abuse while attending our service. It does not include risks to general health and safety.

Harm is as defined by the Children First Act 2015 (Sections 11(1) (a) and Section 2), in relation to a child as

- (a) 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
- (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

Safeguarding risks will be outlined in the context of the following elements of service provision

- Telephone Triage
- Treatment Centre Visits
- Home Visits

Identified Key Risks

- Risk of harm to a child from a staff member
- Risk of harm to a child from another person attending the service
- Risk of harm or concerns not being recognised or reported by staff

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Risk of harm to a child from a staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-employment checks – Garda Vetting • Mandatory on-line Children First Training for all staff • Information sessions for staff on requirements of new legislation • Children First National Guidance available on Intranet • Professional registration for healthcare staff • SouthDoc Code of Conduct for all staff • SouthDoc Child Protection and Welfare policy available on intranet which outlines how to report concerns • Local procedures in place for management of allegations against a staff member • Children will not be examined without a parent/guardian present (unless in the event of a life threatening situation)
2	Risk of harm to a child from another person attending the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff supervision and training • Children must be accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian • Reporting procedure in place
3	Risk of harm or concerns not being recognised or reported by staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff information, supervision and training • Reporting procedures • Legal and administrative consequences for non-reporting

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 01/09/2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

M Hussey
General Manager