

Collins Avenue Physiotherapy Child Protection and Welfare Policy Statement

Collins Avenue Physiotherapy Clinic is committed to safeguarding the children in our care and to providing a safe environment in which they can successfully benefit from our physiotherapy services. We are committed to child centred practice in all our work with children and full compliance with 'Children First' and 'Our Duty to Care'.

We recognise the right of children to be protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to and have their views taken into consideration in matters that affect them.

Management, employees and contracted staff, volunteers and students in this service recognise that the welfare of children is paramount and our service will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- Having procedures to recognise, respond to and report concerns about children's protection and welfare.
- Having a confidentiality policy.
- Having a safe recruitment procedure.
- Having a procedure to respond to accidents and incidents.
- Having a procedure to respond to complaints.
- Having procedures to respond to allegations of abuse and neglect against staff members.

As part of the policy, this service will:-

- Appoint both a Designated Liaison Person for dealing with child protection concerns and a Deputy
- Provide induction training on the Child Protection and Welfare Policy to all staff, volunteers and students, which should include completion of the Child First e-learning programme as appropriate child protection training, and should include fully reading our Child Protection and Welfare Policy. The certification received following this training programme is valid for 3 years, and the programme must be revisited once valid certification has expired.
- Provide support for staff and volunteers in contact with children
- Share information about the Child Protection and Welfare Policy with families and children. This statement is visibly displayed in our clinic and this policy is available to all of our service users, staff or relevant statutory agencies on request.
- This policy will be reviewed by the Clinic Director each time an incident is reported or every 2 years if that is sooner
- Work and cooperate with the relevant statutory agencies as required.

Overall Responsibility of all Service Personnel

Although the Designated Liaison Person (for more detail on the designated liaison person please contact the clinic directly) has a lead on issues relating to the protection and welfare of children, it is the responsibility of all service personnel to ensure the safety, protection and well-being of children in the care of the service. All employees, management, contracted staff and volunteers are required to read, understand and sign off on the Child Protection and Welfare Policy. It is expected that if personnel have any questions about the policy, or its implementation, they speak with the Designated Liaison Person. It is expected that all personnel should be aware if they are categorised as mandated persons, and then also be aware of the legally bound responsibilities that come with being mandated persons.

Note: All physiotherapists are mandated persons and as such should refer to
<http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme>

We will ensure that all personnel:

- Are aware of their responsibilities and their obligations under Children First
- Are aware of their responsibilities for reporting concerns and/or incidents regarding
- Are aware of the specific responsibilities of mandated persons within the our legislation, which includes but is not exclusive to physiotherapists and other
- the safety or well-being of children to the Designated Liaison Person
- Attend child protection training as appropriate
- This policy is applicable at all times when children are in the care of the service, including
- on day trips and outings.

We will ensure this policy is observed by :

Clinic Director
Employees
Contracted Staff
Volunteers
Students
Children & Parents using the service where appropriate

A full Child Welfare and Safety Policy is available on request from the clinic directly at info@dublinphysiotherapy.com