

Child Safeguarding Statement

We, at Croke Dental Healthcare, are committed to protect children from harm. Our dental team recognise and accept our responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

We will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- adapting child protection guidelines and a code of conduct for the dental team
- making staff and patients aware that we take child protection seriously and respond to concerns about the welfare of children
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- following carefully procedures for staff recruitment and selection
- providing effective management for staff by ensuring access to support and training and supervision as required.

Our guiding principles apply to all members of our dental team, who have signed up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice at least every two years.

In accordance with the Children First Act, 2015 we have a duty to:

- report harm of children above a defined threshold, to TUSLA.
- assist TUSLA, if requested, in assessing a concern, which has been the subject of a mandated report.

Our relevant (mandated) person is:

Dr Eamon Croke.

Molesworth House South Frederick Street

Dublin D02 N820

Telephone no: 01 679 1263

Email: hello@crokedental.ie

Our dental hygienist services are provided by Ms Suzanne Armstrong.

Croke Dental Healthcare

Molesworth House

South Frederick Street

Dublin D02 N820

Dental team: Dr Eamon Croke (dentist), Ms Margaret Squires (Practice Administrator), Ms Suzanne Armstrong (Dental Hygienist)

Services provided: General dental practice, including the provision of dental hygienist services and a referral service for removable dental prostheses, including the restoration of dental implants.

Being a city centre practice the children who attend the practice are generally accompanied by an adult, either a parent, guardian or carer. Occasionally, a child/children may make their way directly from school to the practice or an adult may deliver a child/children while parking a car. If an adult is expected to follow, we wait for their arrival before proceeding unless specifically directed otherwise by the responsible adult.

The accompanying adult is invited to be with a child while the child may be in the practice.

A dental nurse shall accompany the dentist should the accompanying adult not be present when there is any dental involvement for the child.

Risk assessment and procedure in place to ensure child safety:

1. Unaccompanied minor

- In the waiting area:
 - regular checks by the practice administrator and/or dental nurse to ensure their safety while waiting;
 - restricted to waiting area, reception and toilet;
- In the clinical area:
 - access to local decontamination area is barred;
 - supervision by practice administrator/dental nurse to ensure safety in both the dentist or hygienist rooms;

2. Accompanied minor

- In the clinical area:
 - access to local decontamination area is barred;
 - supervision by practice administrator/dental nurse to ensure safety in the dentist or hygienist rooms if an accompanying adult is not present;

3. Training of the dental team to ensure child safety and to be aware of our individual responsibilities under the *Children First Act, 2015* and the *Children First: National Guidance* and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: a guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.
4. The practice has procedures on the following, which are available upon request:
 - procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff of a child availing of our services
 - procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff to work 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 (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our dental team 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 31st March 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Address of practice: Molesworth House South Frederick Street Dublin D02 N820

Telephone no: 01 679 1263

For queries, please contact Dr Eamon Croke: hello@crokedental.ie