



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

HSE South East Safeguarding Committee Newsletter

Winter
Edition
2025



"My Voice, My Choice!"

Supporting
Meaningful Participation
in Safeguarding &
Self-Advocacy



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

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South East Safeguarding Conference

In November 2025 the HSE Safeguarding Team partnered with UCC and Inclusion Ireland for the South East Safeguarding Conference. The theme was 'My Voice, My Choice' - Supporting Meaningful Participation in Safeguarding & Self Advocacy. Over 200 participants attended the event with speakers from across community, service, lived experience and advocacy as well as information stands from local community, voluntary and support services. Thanks to all involved!

Sergeant Eddie
Brennan
Garda Crime
Prevention



Neasa Sullivan
HSE
Speech &
Language



Lydia Fisher
& Emer O'Shea
Inclusion
Ireland



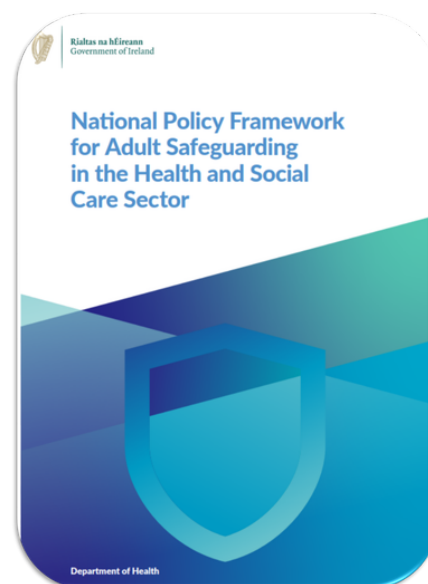
Fionn &
Jonathan
Angus
Fionnathan



Department of Health National Policy Framework for Adult Safeguarding

In December 2025 the Department of Health launched the new National Policy Framework for Adult Safeguarding in Health & Social Care. This will guide how adult safeguarding in Ireland develops over the next number of years. It frames adult safeguarding as something that is intrinsic to the day to day delivery of quality safe care in all health and social care services. See below for some key points from the Framework.

For more information including a summary and an easy read of the document visit the Department of Health website [HERE](#).



1. **SCOPE EXTENSION** - adult safeguarding currently applies to older adults (over 65 years) and adults with a diagnosed disability. The scope will be extended to cover all adults over the age of 18 in all health & social care services (public & private).
2. **CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING** - adult safeguarding is an intrinsic part of everyone's day to day delivery of good quality care and is everyone's responsibility at all levels in our services.
3. **LEGISLATION**- adult safeguarding law will be introduced which will include: relevant services having adult safeguarding statements, certain professionals becoming mandated reporters, a legal duty for information sharing, & HSE Adult Safeguarding Teams having additional legal powers such as right of entry, no contact orders and removal orders.
4. **ADULT SAFEGUARDING STRUCTURES** - adult safeguarding will be embedded as a core part of service delivery across all services. Service providers have primary responsibility for safeguarding adults in their service and will have roles, responsibilities and reporting pathways to follow. There will be sector level specialist safeguarding expertise to provide leadership & intervention when required in specific circumstances.
5. **AUTONOMY** - Respect for an adult's autonomy, guided by the key principles of the Assisted Decision Making (ADM) Act (2015), is the cornerstone of adult safeguarding. ADM & the HSE Consent Policy (2023) are key to putting this into practice and ensuring that adults have the right to make decisions about their own lives and that this is proactively respected and supported.
6. **PREVENTION** - Preventative approaches will be introduced to reduce likelihood or opportunities for adult abuse to occur. This will include the requirement that services put pro-active preventative measures in place and functions for the HSE to support this through awareness raising, advice pathways, training & research.
7. **REPORTING, RESPONDING & INTERVENING** - The HSE now have 6 months to revise the current HSE Safeguarding Policy to provide clear protocols & pathways for referral, assessment and intervention in response to adult safeguarding concerns, in line with extended scope as outlined above.
8. **CO-OPERATION** - A new duty of information sharing will be introduced with legislation and co-operation protocols between services and agreements will be developed to support this duty.

Updates at a Glance



Data Protection Commission publish the **Adult Safeguarding Toolkit** with guidance on data sharing in adult safeguarding

Gemma Flood ADM Lead & Enda Walsh Principal Social Worker providing an ADM information stand at Waterford Older Persons Council Age Well Expo



Kare & Donegal Community Inclusion launched a recent **safeguarding training video** with service users.



Kate Ryan Safeguarding Social Work Team Leader awareness raising at Carlow Older Persons Council Roadshow, Bagenalstown



Decision Support Service will be in Newpark Hotel **5th March** for an information evening (telephone 01 2119750 to book) & **6th March** with open appointments to help you set up Enduring Power of Attorney (Book slot [here](#))

If you have not yet listened to **HSE Wellbeing Podcast about Elderabuse Awareness** it offers plain english descriptions and examples and is well worth a listen



Contact Details



If you are concerned that an adult may be experiencing abuse, you can contact the HSE South East Safeguarding & Protection Team (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm) to speak to the duty social worker about your concern.

If you are concerned about an adult and their decision making or have a query regarding Assisted Decision Making practice issues or case complexities, you can contact ADM Leads Gemma Flood and Enda Walsh for advice

The HSE South East Safeguarding & Protection Team & ADM Leads can be contacted via FREEPHONE number:

FREE PHONE 0818 101 101

EMERGENCY

If you are ever concerned about an immediate or serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult in an emergency situation you should always contact 911/112 or your local Garda Station

HSE Safeguarding & Protection Team Contact Details

Any member of the safeguarding team, including ADM Leads, can be contacted through **0818 101 101** or **safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie**

Rob O'Connor Principal Social Worker Safeguarding & Protection		Enda Walsh Principal Social Worker Prevention, Human Rights & ADM		Gemma Flood Social Work Team Leader/ ADM Lead	
Geraldine Power Business Manager		Ann Moore Section Officer		Susan Bolger Clerical Officer	
Waterford	Wexford	Carlow	Kilkenny	South Tipperary	Nursing Homes
Siobhan Maher Social Work Team Leader	Becky Keeley Social Work Team Leader	Kate Ryan Social Work Team Leader	Rachel Doyle Social Work Team Leader	Meadhbh Terry Social Work Team Leader	Edel Foley Social Work Team Leader
Aoife Gavin Social Worker	Niamh Moloney Social Worker	Katie O'Connor Social Worker	Claire Morrissey Social Worker	William O'Connor Social Worker	Tony Kelly Social Worker
	Annmarie Kehoe Social Worker		Ann Mulholland Clinical Nurse Manager 2	Catherine O'Shea Social Work Apprentice	