

SVP SAFEGUARDING IN HOME VISITATION

Awareness Raising

AIM

- To raise awareness of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk / vulnerable adults within SVP.
- To have an overview of SVP safeguarding policies and procedures and their importance in SVP home visitation and the wider organisation.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Outline the legislation that relates to safeguarding.
- Understand the categories of abuse for all vulnerable groups.
- Implement the process for reporting concerns.
- Outline SVP associated policies.

CONTRACT

- Remember that safeguarding is a sensitive subject.
- No disclosures.
- Confidentiality and respect for the people we assist.
- Participation.
- Feedback.

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

- Safeguarding is preventative action to ensure the safety and well being of children and adults at risk / vulnerable adults.
- It is more than just 'protection' and encompasses an approach of promoting well being and rights. Particularly the right to live free from harm and abuse.



Safeguarding is an 'ingredient' of quality home visitation. It also provides useful information to have in your 'tool kit' if you come across issues of concern.

SETTING THE SCENE CONTACT WITH CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK / VULNERABLE ADULTS IN HOME VISITATION

Children (primarily through meeting parents / families)

- Families may be experiencing poverty, domestic violence, mental health problems, physical health issues or addiction that may cause harm or risk to children.
- Families where there may be existing or previous issues with sexual violence or abuse.

Adults at risk / vulnerable adults

- Older people.
- Adults with learning disability.
- Adults with physical disability.
- Adults with mental health and other emotional issues.
- Adults experiencing domestic violence.

SVP POLICY STATEMENT

- The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is committed to creating a safe, healthy and inclusive environment for all, particularly, the children, young people and vulnerable adults whom we assist. We are committed at all times to ensuring their safety and welfare through upholding children's rights specifically and human rights generally.

DEFINITIONS

- In Ireland the Child Care Act 1991 defines a child as: any person under the age of 18 years, excluding a person who is or who has been married.
- A vulnerable person is an adult who may be restricted in capacity to guard himself / herself from harm or exploitation or to report such harm or exploitation. Restriction of capacity may arise as a result of physical or intellectual impairment. Vulnerability to abuse is influenced by both context and individual circumstances.
- There should be a presumption of decision making capacity unless proven otherwise and a person has a right to make decisions which other people may consider as unwise. The autonomy of the individual must be respected at all times.

WHAT COULD MAKE A PERSON VULNERABLE?

- Communication difficulties.
- Compliant behaviour towards others, limited assertiveness, need for attention.
- Limited sense of danger, inability to see warning signs.
- Vulnerability due to isolation.
- Limited ability to recognise inappropriate sexual behaviour.
- Power differences*****
- Need for intimate care, multiple care services or carers.
- Perceived limited reliability as witnesses
- Older people.
- Adults with learning disability.
- Adults with physical disability.
- Adults with mental health and other emotional issues.
- Adults experiencing domestic violence.

LEGAL CONTEXT

**Protection for Persons Reporting
Child Abuse Act 1998**

Child Care Act 1991

**Criminal Justice Act 2006
'reckless endangerment'**

**Children First National
Guidance for the Protection
and Welfare of Children
2017**

**UNCRC 1992 &
Constitutional amendment 2013**

**Withholding Information
Act 2012**

**National Vetting Bureau
Act 2012 and 2016**

**Children First Act
2015**

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse may be defined as ‘any act, or failure to act, which results in a breach of a vulnerable persons human rights, civil liberties, physical and mental integrity, dignity or general well being, whether intended or through negligence, including sexual relationships or financial transactions to which the person does not or cannot validly consent, or which are deliberately exploitative. Abuse may take a variety of forms.

Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) 2013

CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse Such as hitting, slapping, rough handling, misuse of medication, misuse of restraint.

Neglect and Acts of Omission Such as not meeting a persons basic care needs.

Emotional/Psychological Abuse Is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a person. It is also sometime called psychological abuse and can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

Sexual Abuse Making someone carry out a sexual act which they have not or cannot respond to.

CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

Financial or Material Abuse Such as theft of money/possessions, misuse of someone's benefits, denying someone access to their money.

Discriminatory Abuse Is any form of abuse based on discrimination because of a person's race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation.

Institutional Abuse Abuse or poor practice throughout an organisation. Abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance.

Another type of abuse that a child / vulnerable adult can experience which can be linked with other forms of abuse...

Exploitation

Abuse of a person because of their vulnerability, potentially through slavery, servitude, domestic violence, human trafficking.

Children/Vulnerable
Adults can also
experience all of these
categories of abuse

BULLYING

- Although bullying is not a category of abuse, it can have long term effects on those children, young people or adults at risk subjected to bullying.
- Bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. Bullying can occur at any age, in any environment, and can be long or short-term.

EXAMPLES AND INDICATORS OF ABUSE

Considering the 7 categories of abuse for children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk, give 1 example and 1 indicator for each category.

1. **Physical Abuse**
2. **Emotional/Psychological Abuse**
3. **Sexual Abuse**
4. **Neglect**
5. **Financial Abuse**
6. **Institutional Abuse**
7. **Exploitation**

Abuse is rarely related to a single cause, but rather to the interplay of several factors in particular circumstances.

Sinclair & Bullock 2002

What next?

**YOU MUST DO SOMETHING IF YOU HAVE A
CONCERN OR WORRY ABOUT A CHILD, OR
VULNERABLE ADULT
REPORT**

DEALING WITH DISCLOSURE

What would you do if a child/adult at risk disclosed to you?

What are the “Do’s”?

- Stay Calm
- Listen with sensitivity
- Accept –be non judgemental
- Reassure and support
- Make a written record
- Report to Designated Person
- Record your report

What would you do if a child/adult at risk disclosed to you?

What are the “Dont’s”?

- Panic
- Promise to keep secrets
- Ask leading questions
- Delay
- Investigate
- Make the child/adult repeat the story unnecessarily

REPORTING

It is important that everyone in SVP is aware that the person who first encounters a case of alleged or suspected abuse is not responsible for deciding whether or not actual abuse has occurred.

Our Role is to Record it, Report it and Seek advice.

RECORD

As soon as possible after a concern is raised write down:

- ✓ Where and when;
- ✓ What was said;
- ✓ What you saw;
- ✓ Signs of physical injury should be described;
- ✓ Record relevant dates, times;
- ✓ Keep your report factual;
- ✓ Write the date on the record and sign it;
- ✓ Contact Designated Liaison Person.

This document should be kept in a safe place.

DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

- Receive and consider child and/or adult protection concerns, to act as a resource for those who have concerns within the organisation.
- Consult and act as liaison with Tusla / Garda / HSE.
- Make a formal referral to Statutory Authorities.
- To keep records current and with integrity.
- To inform the Regional President and prepare regular reports to the Regional Council, remembering confidentiality.
- To promote awareness of safeguarding within SVP.

DLP CONTACT DETAILS

ROLE OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

- To promote awareness of, and ensure compliance with SVP's Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- To ensure that all doing the work of SVP and those whom we assist have contact details for the Designated Liaison Person.
- To facilitate anyone in the Conference or engaging with the SVP Conference in bringing an allegation or suspicion of child or vulnerable adult abuse to the Designated Liaison Person.
- To ensure all members and auxiliary members of the Conference have completed the necessary application process and checks and carry SVP identification.

ABUSE CAN HAPPEN:

- At home.
- In services - school, youth club etc.
- In social housing.
- In a residential home or a nursing home.
- In hospital or day care.
- In public places.
- Via the internet.

Abuse can happen
anywhere!

ABUSERS MAY BE:

- Well known to the person being abused.
- Parent, sibling, husband, wife or partner.
- Child or relative.
- Friend or neighbor.
- Care worker.

Abusers can be
anyone!

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE

REPORT ALLEGATIONS TO DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

Who will inform Statutory Authorities, Regional President and National Safeguarding Manager

- Inform the member
- Written records
- Investigate the situation
- Suspension
- Privacy
- Offer of support
- Counseling

SCENARIOS

ASSOCIATED POLICIES IN SVP

- Safeguarding policy
- Recruitment and selection
- Garda vetting
- Code of conduct – visiting in pairs, use of mobile phones, cameras etc.
- Confidentiality
- Complaints
- Care, Welfare, and Safety of members

RECAP - OBJECTIVES

- By the end of this session you will be able to:
- Outline the legislation that relates to safeguarding.
- Understand the categories of abuse for all vulnerable groups.
- Implement the process for reporting concerns.
- Outline SVP associated policies.

THANK YOU