
Clowns without Borders Ireland

Vulnerable Adults
Safeguarding Policy

May 2020

Clowns Without Borders Ireland Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

It is central to the philosophy of **Clowns Without Borders Ireland (CWB IR)** that vulnerable adults and adults in risk are unconditionally respected and kept safe from harm while engaging with artists from Clowns Without Borders Ireland.

Our aim is to create a safe, creative and fun environment where vulnerable adults and adults in risk can relax and laugh knowing their welfare is paramount.

To realise this aim, we adhere to the resources provided by HIQA & Safeguarding Ireland¹. You can find our Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding policy below in more detail.

Our Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding policy, procedures and practice will be reviewed annually or when new relevant government legislation is introduced. This policy was last reviewed in April 2020.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a white background. The signature reads 'Colm O'Grady' followed by '5th April '20'.

Colm O'Grady,

Director Clowns Without Borders Ireland.

¹ <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/resources/>

Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

CWB is committed to the following principles in all aspects of its safeguarding work:

Empowerment

putting people first and helping those who lack mental capacity feel involved and informed

Protection

supporting victims so they can take action

Prevention

responding quickly to suspected cases of abuse

Proportionality

making sure what we do is appropriate to the situation and for the individual

Partnership

sharing the right information in the right way

Accountability

making sure all agencies have a clear role

1. What is safeguarding?

1.1

Safeguarding is a term used to describe how we protect adults and children from abuse or neglect. Safeguarding is about protecting certain people who may be in vulnerable circumstances.

Clowns Without Borders Ireland Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

2. What is abuse?

2.1

Abuse and neglect take many forms. Abuse can lead to a violation of someone's human and civil rights by another person or persons. Abuse can be physical, financial, verbal or psychological. It can be the result of an act or a failure to act.

It can happen when an adult at risk is persuaded into a financial or sexual exchange they have not consented to, or can't consent to. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm or exploitation.

2.2

Abuse is a misuse of power and control that one person has over another. Where someone is dependent on another, there is the possibility of abuse or neglect unless enough safeguards are put in place. Abuse is always wrong.

2.3

If CWB suspects that a crime has been committed, we refer the matter to the police.

2.4

Abuse can fall into the following categories:

Physical

This includes assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, restraining someone or only letting them do certain things at certain times.

Sexual

This includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, taking sexual photographs, making someone look at pornography or watch sexual acts, sexual assault or sexual acts the adult didn't consent to or was pressured into consenting.

Psychological

This includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, depriving someone of contact with someone else, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, putting pressure on someone to do something, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks.

Financial or material

This includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, putting pressure on someone about their financial arrangements (including wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions) or the misuse or stealing of property, possessions or benefits.

Clowns Without Borders Ireland Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

Discriminatory

This includes types of harassment or insults because of someone's race, gender or gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

2.7

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in Clowns Without Borders Ireland in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not abuse has taken place. However there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities so that they can then make inquiries and take necessary action to protect the adult in question.

3. Assessing and responding to the level of risk

3.1

We'll take all suspicions or allegations of abuse seriously.

We'll respond quickly to all allegations that abuse has happened, or is likely to happen. All allegations will be dealt with seriously, sensitively and appropriately to ensure that the standard of service provided by CWB is maintained at a high level.

3.2

If CWB suspects that abuse has occurred, all relevant authorities, including service providers, will be immediately informed.

3.3

Although this statement refers to Adult Safeguarding, in the case of a Child Protection concern the Child protection Policy will apply. For further information, please see CWB Child Protection and Welfare Policy.

4. Reporting a Concern

All suspicions and allegations MUST be reported appropriately. It is recognised that strong emotions can be aroused particularly in cases where sexual abuse is suspected or where there is misplaced loyalty to a colleague. It is important to understand these feelings but not allow them to interfere with your judgement about any action to take.

What are reasonable grounds for a concern?

- Explicit indication from the adult that s/he has been abused
- An account by a person who saw the vulnerable adult/adult in risk being abused
- Evidence, such as an injury or behavior, which is consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused another way

Clowns Without Borders Ireland Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

- An injury or behavior, which is consistent both with abuse and with an innocent explanation, but where there are corroborative indicators supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse. For example, a pattern of injuries, an implausible explanation, other indications of abuse, dysfunctional behavior consistent indication, over a period of time, that an adult or adult in risk is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.
- Consistent indication, over a period of time that a vulnerable adult is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.

Reporting procedure: who to contact regarding vulnerable adults safeguarding

- Aoife Raleigh has been designated the person to contact if you have an issue or concern about any aspect of a vulnerable adult or adult in risk and welfare. It is the responsibility of this person to support and advise staff about policy and procedures in relation to adult protection and to ensure that procedures are followed. It is also the responsibility of the designated person to liaise with the Health Service Executive or Gardaí where appropriate.

Aoife O'Reilly can be contacted at aoife.raleigh@gmail.com, 0831639599.

Colm O'Grady has been designated as Deputy Designated Person and can be contacted at colm@colmogrady.com

Records will be stored securely and confidentiality will be maintained (see Confidentiality statement below).

Staff should record the following information in relation to children and vulnerable adults:

- Suspicions;
- Concerns;
- Worrying observations; • Behavioral changes;
- Actions and outcomes.

Record all details, including the date, time and people involved in the concern or disclosure and the facts. Information recorded should be factual. Any opinions should be supported by facts. The Safeguarding report form in Appendix A should be used.

Inform the Designated Person or his or her deputy, if unavailable;

The most appropriate person should discuss the concern or consult with primary carers. Parents, carers or responsible adults should be made aware of a report to the Health Service Executive unless it is likely to put the person at further risk;

Clowns Without Borders Ireland Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

The Designated Person may contact the Health Service Executive Duty Social Work Department for an informal consultation prior to making a report;

Information will be shared on a strictly 'need to know' basis (see Confidentiality statement);

If the Designated Person or Deputy Designated Person is not available, contact the local Duty Social Worker of the Health Service Executive directly;

In case of emergencies outside of Health Service Executive Social Work Department hours, contact the Gardaí. In situations that threaten the immediate safety of a vulnerable adult, it may be necessary to contact the Gardaí.

Confidentiality statement

Clowns without Borders Ireland are committed to ensuring peoples' rights to confidentiality. However, in relation to child protection and welfare we undertake that:

Information will only be forwarded on a 'need to know' basis in order to safeguard the child/vulnerable adult;

Giving such information to others for the protection of a child or vulnerable adult is not a breach of confidentiality;

We cannot guarantee total confidentiality where the best interests of the child or vulnerable adult are at risk;

Primary carers, children and vulnerable adults have a right to know if personal information is being shared and/or a report is being made to the Health Service Executive, unless doing so could put the child/young person at further risk;

Clowns Without Borders Ireland expects it's members and staff to discuss any concerns they may have about the welfare of a vulnerable adult/ adult in risk immediately with the Designated Officer or the person in charge of the service and subsequently to check that appropriate action has been taken.

APPENDIX A:

Safeguarding reporting form

This form should be used to record safeguarding concerns relating to Children and/or Vulnerable persons.

In an emergency please do not delay in informing the police or social services. All the information must be treated as confidential and reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer within one working day or the next working day if it's a weekend.

The form should be completed at the time or immediately following disclosure, but after all necessary emergency actions have been taken. Please complete the form as fully as possible.

1 Your details – the person completing the form

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Name | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Position | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Telephone | <input type="text"/> | Email | <input type="text"/> |

2 Details of the person affected

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Name | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Address | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Telephone | <input type="text"/> | Email | <input type="text"/> |

3 Details of the incident (please describe in detail using only the facts)

Clowns Without Borders Ireland Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

| | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|
| 4 Other present or potential witnesses | | | |
| Name | | | |
| Address | | | |
| Telephone number | | Email | |
| 5 Additional relevant information (please detail anything else that you believe to be helpful or important) | | | |
| | | | |

I have completed this form and provided information that is factual and does not contain my own views or opinions on the matter.

Print name

Signature

Date