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Parkinson's Association of Ireland

Parkinson's Association Ireland

Safeguarding At Risk Adult Policy

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February 2022. Version 1.0

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Policy name	Safeguarding At Risk Adult
Purpose of Policy	PAI is committed to safeguarding, protecting and promoting the welfare of all those who use our services. Recognising that all adults have the right to live a life free from harm, abuse, or neglect.
Scope	Employees, volunteers, contractors, third parties to PAI who may act in a representational capacity for PAI
Legislation & National Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Standards for Adult Safeguarding 2019. Health Information & Quality Authority. • Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children • Guidance on a Human Rights-based Approach in Health and Social Care Services (2019) HIQA, Safeguarding Ireland & • Health Act 2007 (Part 14) Protected Disclosures of Information and Protected Disclosures Act 2014 • Health Service Executive (2011). Good Faith Reporting Policy (Revision 5) • Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 • Domestic Violence Act 2018 (updating 1996 Act) • Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019
Definitions	Vulnerable adult, abuse, neglect
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Review Date	Review annually unless change in circumstances/national guidelines occur which requires review
Key Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding • Vulnerable • Harm • Abuse

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Introduction

All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse. Safeguarding means protecting the health, wellbeing and rights of those who may be at a greater risk

Parkinson's Association of Ireland is committed to ensuring that vulnerable adults who use our services are not subjected to potential situations of abuse, harm and neglect. The development of a safeguarding policy is to potentially minimise the risk of an issue arising, to highlight and of the raise awareness of safeguarding, professional training that may be beneficial for relevant roles within Parkinson's Association of Ireland. Parkinson's Association of Ireland are committed to adhering to a high level of good practice and standards, acting as an advocate for members.

Purpose of Safeguarding Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Parkinson's Association of Ireland employees, volunteers and third parties to PAI who act in a representational capacity for PAI understand their responsibility to uphold a high standard of values regarding safeguarding practice, relevant to their role. To ensure it is understood that if a concern or issues does arise or is brought to their attention, who to report it to. To make individuals aware of the potential for these issues to arise.

Parkinson's Association of Ireland recognises the value and importance of good standards in its governance.

PAI Mission:

"To be a strong and effective organisation, acting on behalf of people with Parkinson's and their families. To deliver a broad range of services and supports to meet their needs with specific focus on health care supports, advocacy, information, and advice to anyone with Parkinson's, their family, carers, friends and care workers"

Core Values

People are at the heart of everything that we do and this is enshrined in all of our values:

- Integrity: PAI is proud of what we do and how we do it. We behave responsibly with the highest standards of integrity. Our work is informed by need and we operate to the highest standards of governance being accountable to our members, funders and the wider public.
- Excellence: PAI's commitment to excellence in the provision of services and corporate governance drives our development and growth as we strive to attain the

highest standards in everything we do. We are results focused and operate with independence in all areas of our work.

- Leadership: PAI is the leading influencer in shaping public policy and societal attitudes to advance social inclusion for people with physical disabilities. We see beyond boundaries and identify new approaches for an improved world for people with Parkinson's disease.
- Respect: PAI is committed to a culture of mutual respect between members, staff and volunteers. We listen with an open mind to what people have to say and value their diversity and contributions.
- Equality: PAI believes in a fair and inclusive society. We work actively to ensure that every person with a Parkinson disease in Ireland can achieve their right to an independent life, with equal access to opportunities, services and supports within their communities.

Scope

The safeguarding policy applies to Parkinson's Association of Ireland

- Employees
- volunteers
- third parties to PAI who act in a representational capacity

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of Parkinson's Association of Ireland to:

- Ensure employees, volunteers, third parties representing PAI are familiar with the safeguarding vulnerable adult policy
- Ensure employees, volunteers, third parties representing PAI are aware of what they should do if they have concerns that a vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or has experienced abuse or neglect
- Ensure that concerns are acted on, clearly recorded and referred to the appropriate agencies
- Take appropriate action in line with this policy
- To ensure that employees, volunteers, third parties representing PAI who are working directly with service users who have experienced abuse, or who are experiencing abuse, are well supported and receive appropriate supervision
- Ensure all suggested training is undertaken and encourage participation as deemed necessary dependent on role.
- Ensure that the Garda Vetting Process is carried out (when required, role dependent)
- Declare any existing or subsequent convictions

Definitions

Adult at risk: A person who:

- Is aged 18 or over who needs help to protect themselves or their interests at a particular point in time, whether due to personal characteristics or circumstances, and is at risk of experiencing harm [/abuse] by another party.
- Is receiving or may need community care services because of learning, physical or mental disability, age or illness.
- Is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against abuse.
- It may also include victims of domestic abuse, hate crime and anti-social abuse behaviour.

Advocate: a person who assists an individual in making their views known. Advocacy comes in different forms. This may include informal support or independent advocacy services.

Safeguarding: Putting measures in place to reduce the risk of harm/abuse, promote and protect people's human rights and their health and wellbeing, and empowering people to protect themselves

Harm: The impact of abuse, exploitation, or neglect on the person. Harm arises from any action, whether by a deliberate act or an act of omission, that may cause impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, or mental health and wellbeing

Abuse: A single or repeated act, or omission (including within a relationship where there is an expectation of trust), which violates a person's civil or human rights and / or causes harm or distress to that person. Abuse can include physical, psychological, sexual, financial, discriminatory, neglect, domestic violence.

Neglect: Withholding or failure, by a responsible party, to provide appropriate and adequate care and/or support which is required to another person which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's health or wellbeing. It may be through a lack of knowledge or awareness, or through a failure to take reasonable action given the information and facts available to them at the time.

Exploitation: Deliberate manipulation of, or abuse of power and control over another person: to take unfair advantage of another person or situation

Multiple forms of abuse: may occur in an ongoing relationship or an abusive service setting to one person, or to more than one person at a time, making it important to look beyond single incidents or breaches in standards, to underlying dynamics and patterns of harm. Any or all of these types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent and targeting of vulnerable people, negligence or ignorance.

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

Procedure

Concerns of Abuse

Good protection practice means that employees/volunteers know how to recognise abuse. This does not mean that they are responsible for deciding whether or not abuse has taken place-even for an expert that is a difficult decision-but they have a responsibility to be alert to behaviour by service users or workers which suggests that something is wrong. It is not the responsibility of the employee/volunteer to prove the allegation. All concerns/suspicions should be reported to the appropriate manager.

Information collection & Reporting

Information should be:

- relevant
- factual
- accurate
- reliable
- timely
- accessible
- clear

Any disclosure, suspected concern should be reported to line manager/ CEO who is then responsible for contacting the necessary authorities.

Report within 24 hours of disclosure or recognition.

Make contact with Community Health Organisation (CHO)/ Safeguarding & Protection Team

If necessary and immediate risk posed/If criminal act has occurred – contact An Garda Síochána

Confidentiality

All vulnerable persons should be made aware of the safeguarding policy in situ. Service users should be aware any information is managed appropriately and that there is a clear understanding of confidentiality. Members should be made aware that on occasion, the requirement of disclosure with relevant professionals and statutory agencies in order to protect a vulnerable person or others, if it is deemed to appropriate:

- A vulnerable person is the subject of abuse and/or
- The risk of further abuse exists and/or

- There is a risk of abuse to another vulnerable person(s) and/or
 - There is reason to believe that the alleged person causing concern is a risk to themselves and/or
 - A legal obligation to report exists.
 - Information regarding or allegations of abuse cannot be received with a promise of secrecy
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- All staff must be aware that failure to record, disclose and share information in accordance with this policy is a failure to discharge a duty of care. In making a report or referral, it is essential to be clear whether the vulnerable person is at immediate and serious risk of abuse and if this is the case, it is essential to outline the protective actions taken. The report/referral may also contain the views and wishes of the vulnerable person where these have been, or can be, ascertained. The role of an advocate or key worker may be important in this regard.

Policy Review

Annual review of this policy unless national guidelines or standards are amended/implemented in the interim.

Complimentary Policies

PAI Employee handbook

Board of Directors Operating Guidelines and Handbook

PAI Governance Manual

Privacy Policy

Appendix 3

Physical Abuse	Psychological Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Financial Abuse	Neglect/ Act of Omission	Discriminatory abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence • Pushing • Burning • Inappropriate restraint of adult or confinement • Use of excessive force in the delivery of personal care • Inappropriate use of medication • Unexplained signs of physical injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional abuse • Verbal abuse • Threats of harm or abandonment • Deprivation of contact • Humiliation • Blaming • Controlling • Intimidation • Coercion • Harassment • Isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive network • Persistent criticism, humiliation, hostility, intimidation or blaming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional touching • Fondling • Molesting • Sexual assault • Rape • Inappropriate and sexually explicit conversations or remarks • Exposure of the sexual organs and any sexual act intentionally performed in the presence of a service user • Exposure to pornography or other sexually explicit and inappropriate material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft • Fraud • Exploitation • Pressure in connection with wills property, inheritance or financial transactions • Misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits • Misusing or stealing property, possessions or benefits • Mismanagement of bank accounts • Manipulating the service user for financial gain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignoring medical or physical care needs • Failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services • Withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. • Withdrawing or not giving help that a vulnerable person needs so causing them to suffer e.g. malnourishment, untreated medical conditions, unclean physical appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageism • Racism • Sexism • Based on a person's disability • Assumptions about a person's abilities or inabilities

Note: This list of possible examples should not be considered a complete list of possible indicators but used as a way of alerting staff/volunteers that abuse may be occurring.