



**CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE  
FRONTLINE  
A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE**

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# THE JOURNEY SO FAR

**1871** Lunacy Regulation Act

**1998** O'Loughlin and Duggan exploratory study

**2002** Protecting our Future (Report of the Dept. of Health Working Group on Elder Abuse)

**2005** Prime Time Investigates programme on Leas Cross Nursing Home

**2007** HSE establishes the Elder Abuse service

**2014** Prime Time Aras Attracta programme

**2014** HSE Launches Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable adults

**2015** HSE establishes the Safeguarding Protection Teams

**2015** Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act

**2016** Dignam Report on the Grace Case

**2016** McCoy Report on Aras Attracta- included recommendations to place the HSE Safeguarding Procedures on a statutory basis

Commitment in Programme for a Partnership Government to review Elder Abuse Legislation

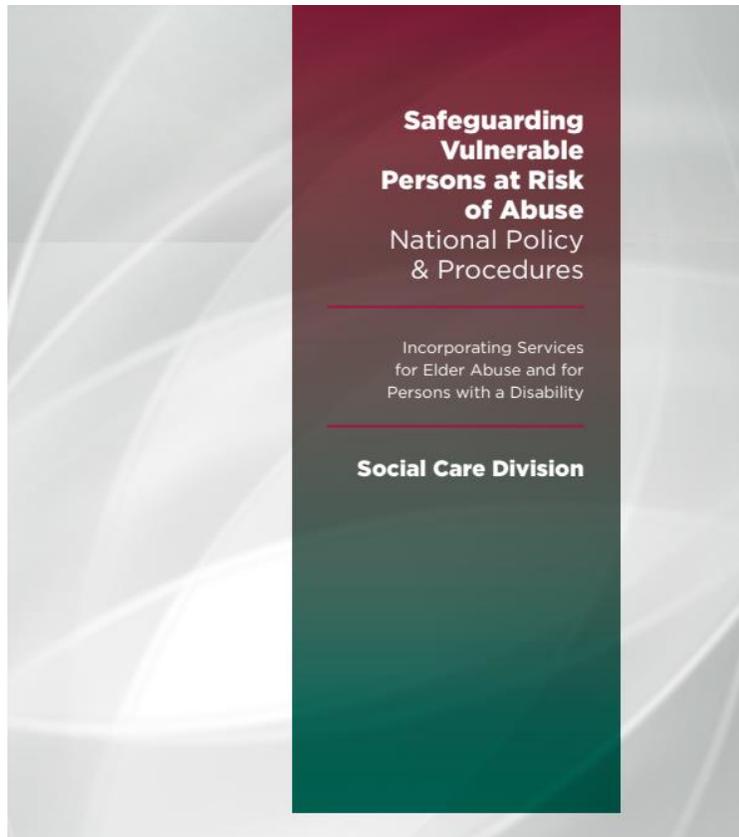
**2017** Adult Safeguarding Bill

**2017** Ireland signs the UNCRPD Convention on the Rights of people with disabilities

**2017** Department of health announces ad New National Adult Safeguarding Policy is to be developed for the Health sector

**2019** HSE Revises the Safeguarding policy

**2019** Dept of Health Steering group began work on the development of its National Adult Safeguarding policy



## ***Publicly declared “No Tolerance”***

Some of the principles underpinning the policy include:

Respect for human rights

A person centred approach to care and services

Promotion of advocacy.

Respect for confidentiality

Empowerment of individuals

A collaborative approach

# HOW DO WE SAFEGUARD?

With consent of the older person

Based on will and preference of the person and not principle of best interests

Working to reduce the risks to the older person

Person centred approach

Collaboration is key

## **Safeguarding and Protection teams**

Directly assess complex cases (in the absence of other services)

Directly assess cases referred from the community setting

Review and agree Preliminary Screenings and Safeguarding Plans from HSE and HSE funded services

Support services and professionals to assess concerns

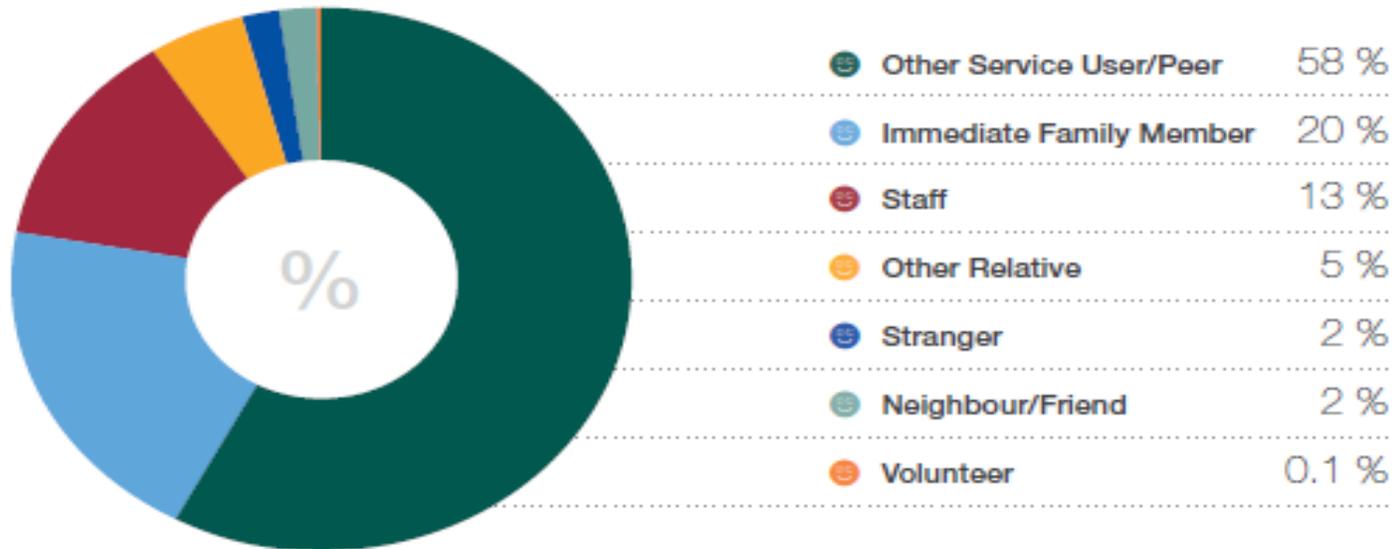
Provide training

# SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Abuse Types Alleged	18-64		65+		80+		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Physical Abuse	3985	48%	1046	26%	348	20%	5067	40%
Sexual Abuse	488	6%	122	3%	54	3%	629	5%
Psychological Abuse	2781	33%	1356	33%	537	31%	4197	33%
Financial Abuse	444	5%	875	22%	437	26%	1334	10%
Neglect	438	5%	545	13%	286	17%	998	8%
Discriminatory Abuse	26	0%	12	0%	6	0%	38	0%
Institutional Abuse	115	1%	42	1%	16	1%	159	1%
Self Neglect	29	0%	56	1%	29	2%	340	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8306</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4054</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1713</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12762</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Data is underestimated due to missing categorical data from CH07

# SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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# CULTURE

Staffing **“Nothing corrupts like loyalty and friendship”**

Training **“What we permit we promote”**

Language, Loyalty, Liability, Livability.

How do we create and nurture open culture where residents and staff can Speak Up

# STRUCTURES

As the Structure is so disjointed now is an opportunity to create a sustainable independent authority

Universal level- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Governance and management- role to promote and protect residents

Specialist role - Social work Profession is the only discipline trained in a Human right focus

Regulation- HIQA need review of their powers to monitor residences, this should also extend to review of Safeguarding teams.

Inter Agency collaboration- GDPR, Gardai, Courts

# OPPORTUNITIES

Legislation

Thresholds- the Value of a Zero Tolerance approach

Social work and a Human Rights Approach

The power of doing nothing- “What good is it making someone safe if it merely makes them miserable” Justice Munby

Recognitions of the role of IASW, and service users groups both pre and during Covid consistently highlighting the issues in residential care, these are the voices that need to be added to Department of Health safeguarding committee

# FINAL THOUGHTS

May you never be the reason why someone who loved to sing doesn't anymore, Or why someone who dressed so uniquely, now wears plain clothes. Or why someone who always spoke excitedly about their dream, is now silent about them. May you never be the reason someone gave up a part of themselves, because you were so demotivating, non appreciative, hypercritical or even worse sarcastic about it. –  
Mostafa Ibrahim