

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk



Creating safer places. Together.

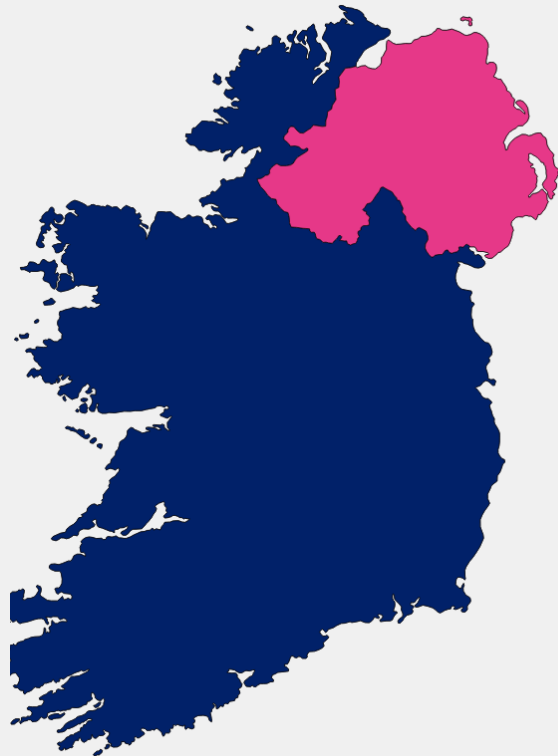
Introductions



thirtyone:
eight



UK 4 Nations







1.Recognise

What is safeguarding?



Pause and consider:

Adult and child safeguarding:

- Similarities?
- Differences?



Increased vulnerability in childhood



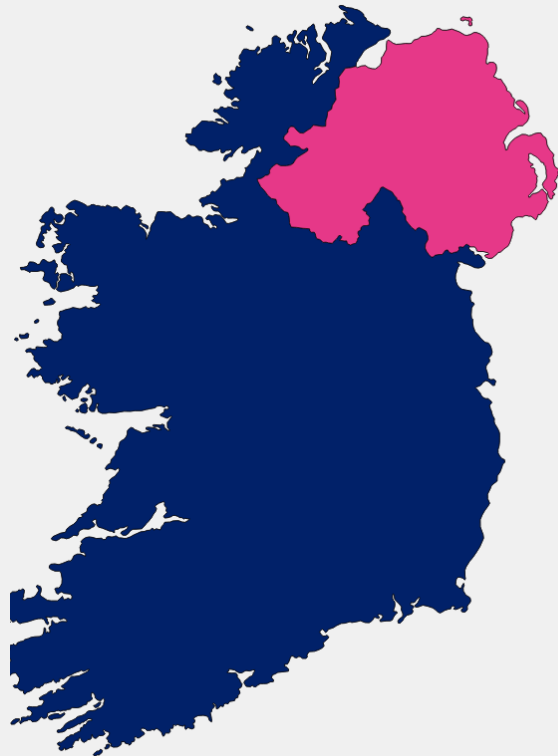
Increased vulnerability in adulthood



Adults at Risk / In Need of Protection

- ▶ 18 years or over (16+ in Scotland)
- ▶ At risk of harm
- ▶ Unable to safeguard themselves
- ▶ Increased vulnerability*

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Categories of harm and abuse

Physical

**Emotional /
Psychological**

Neglect

Sexual

Financial*

Other forms of harm and abuse named in law across the UK...



Emerging and evolving forms of harm



Cuckooing



Child exploitation



Online harm



Mate crime



Spiritual abuse



Child abuse linked to faith or belief

Victim-Survivor:

“

Looking back, there were red flags in our relationship from the start.

”

Signs and Indicators of Abuse





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2. Respond

Responding well - Do...

- Listen actively
- Keep calm
- Reassure and reaffirm
- Ask what they need / want






Victim-Survivor:

“

My dad told me to just let it go. It felt like he was brushing off everything I endured.

”

Responding well: Don't...

-  Promise secrecy
-  Investigate or act alone
-  Excuse, minimise or blame

Case Scenarios

1. Concerns?
2. Statutory duty?
3. Response?



Scenario 1 – Rowan and Claire

- Lively two-year-old
- Mum upset- lashed out
- Bruises on arm
- “I’m a terrible mother.”

Scenario 2 - Layla

Accident at holiday club

'I don't want to be evil'

Told she is possessed

Lists of wrong things

Scenario 3 – Eddie

- Girlfriend ‘overbearing and controlling’
- Afraid to leave the relationship
- Children in household

Scenario 4 - Sadie and Cillian

- Missed a couple of weeks, looks tired
- Great-grandson staying, collecting pension and shopping
- Friends at all times of day and night

Challenges of responding:

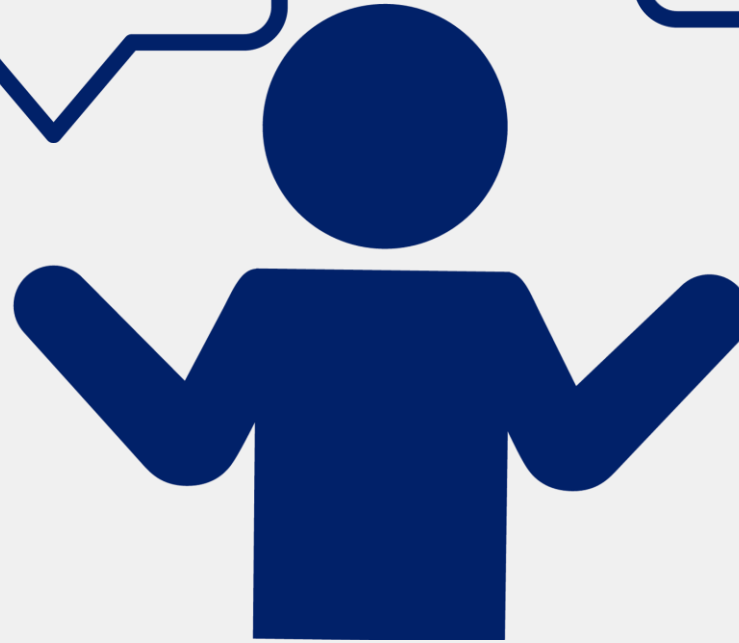
I don't want
to make
things worse

I just can't
believe it

It's not that
big a deal

It's none of
my business

What if I'm
wrong?



Why we respond anyway:

It is everyone's
responsibility

We only ever have
part of the picture



Right to live free
from harm

The effects of
abuse



3. Record

Victim-Survivor:

“

It took me 50 years to disclose ... due to the mis-founded shame and guilt I carried.

”

Why they didn't tell me



Silencing and fear



Taught that it's 'normal'



Feel shame or guilt



Don't have the language

Record observed indications



Recording disclosures or concerns



Who, what, where,
when



Person's own
words



Clarify, don't
lead



Record quickly and
pass it on



5:000

Record concerning behaviour: grooming

- Identify vulnerability
- Develop trust with person and community
- Access and isolation
- Desensitisation to touch

Record considerations around capacity

- ▶ Ability to make a particular decision
- ▶ Covered by law
- ▶ Reasons a person may lack capacity...

4. Report



Victim-Survivor:

“

The feeling of finally being in control of my life.

”

Worried? Report your concern

- Talk to your safeguarding lead
- Emergency – phone 999
- Helplines
- Still worried? Keep reporting and escalate



Consent to report

 Internal: Report everything

 External:

- Children – child protection duty
- Adults – always seek consent

Pause and consider:

Why might someone say no?



Adults: No consent = Risk assessment

- Is anyone else at risk?
- Serious crime?
- Serious harm?



Considerations and challenges

- Never address the abuse with the alleged perpetrator
- Talking to parents and carers
- Consent and confidentiality
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility



5. Reflect



Supporting Voice:

“

Listening and learning from survivors must be at the heart
of everything we do.

”

Reflect to safeguard everyone



What works well?



Reduce risk



Safeguarding children and ourselves



Reflect:



Review of learning:



I have learnt.....



**Your feedback is
important to us**





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