



Society of St Vincent de Paul

* Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the largest, voluntary, charitable organisation in Ireland. Its membership of 10,500 volunteers throughout the country are supported by professional staff, working for social justice and the creation of a more just, caring nation. This unique network of social concern also gives practical support to those experiencing poverty and social exclusion, by providing a wide range of services to people in need.



- * We are involved in a diverse range of activities characterised by:
- * Support and friendship
- * Promoting self sufficiency
- * Working for social justice.



- * The aim of the St Vincent de Paul Society is to tackle poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need.
- * The concept of need is broader than financial hardship, so visiting the sick, the lonely, the imprisoned form a large proportion of the Society's work.
- * The Society operates in small groups, called "Conferences", based on local parishes which meet regularly and their work is usually concentrated on local visiting.
- * However over the years, the SVP has responded to social changes, provides a range of additional services depending on the prevailing need. Today, these "Special Works" include shops, resource centres, provides accommodation to vulnerable people and various holiday schemes amongst other things.

* Our Work

- * To develop an awareness of vulnerability and vulnerable adults using SVP services;
- * To define what is meant by the term ‘vulnerable adult’;
- * To consider both the legal and organisational position in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults;
- * To understand good practice for working with vulnerable adults and SVP’s code of conduct;
- * To be aware of vulnerable adult abuse and SVP’s reporting procedure.

* Learning Objectives for this session

- * Introductions & Expectations
- * Housekeeping
- * Confidentiality
- * No disclosures.

*** Working as a group**



* Awareness of
vulnerability

What could make an adult
vulnerable?

- * 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.
- * ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at risk of Abuse - HSE 2014’

* Definition of vulnerable adult

- * People with a learning disability
- * People with a physical disability
- * People with a sensory impairment
- * People with mental ill health
- * People with dementia
- * People who are frail due to age or other factors
- * People with acquired brain injury
- * People with certain types of physical illness.

*** This may include:**

- * 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.

- * Diminished social skills
- * Dependence on others for personal or intimate care
- * Capacity to report
- * Sensory difficulties
- * Power differentials
- * Limited sense of danger, inability to see warning signs
- * Vulnerability due to isolation
- * Contact with multiple care services and carers
- * Frequent staff turnover.

* Factors of vulnerability

- * Incidents of physical and sexual assault, fraud and financial exploitation are crimes and must be referred to the Gardai.
- * Criminal Justice Act 2012 Withholding information - it is an offence to withhold information about the physical or sexual abuse of a child or vulnerable adult.
- * Equal Status Act 2004
- * Criminal Law (sex offenders) Act 1993 Section 5
- * Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at risk of Abuse (HSE 2014).

* Legal and Policy Context

*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.

* **SVP National Policy and Procedure
for the Protection and Welfare of
Children, young People and
Vulnerable Adults**

❖ We will endeavour to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by:

- * Reporting concerns to Statutory Authorities who need to know and involving parents, carers, children, young people and vulnerable adults appropriately;
- * Sharing information about child and vulnerable adult protection and good practice with children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents, carers, members, auxiliary members and employees;

- * Recognising the welfare of the child is of paramount importance;
- * Recognising the risks posed to vulnerable adults;
- * Adopting child and vulnerable adult protection guidelines through a code of conduct for members, auxiliary members and employees;
- * Following carefully the procedures laid down for the recruitment and selection of members, auxiliary members and employees;
- * Providing for members, auxiliary members and employees through, supervision, support and training.

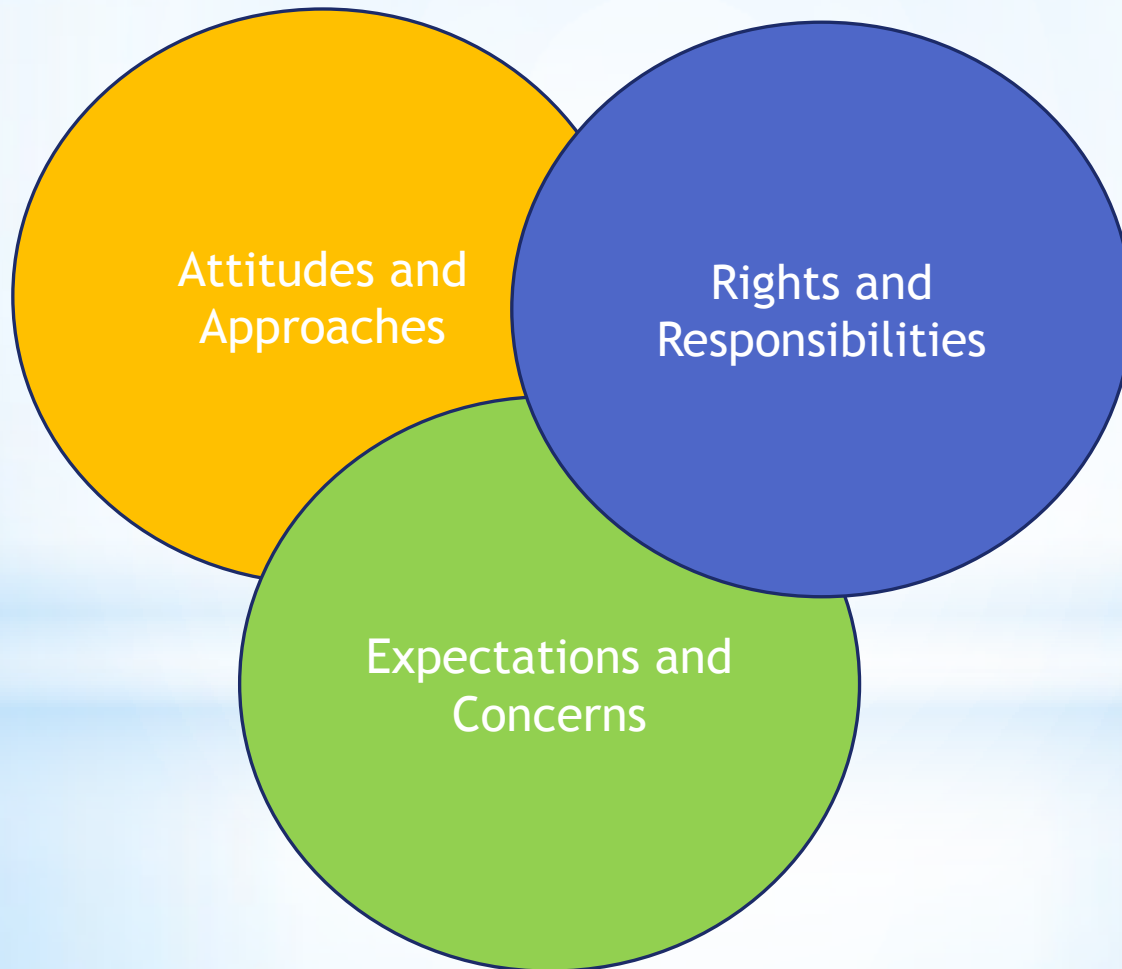
* Attitudes to Vulnerable People

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuKrtjq7bA>

http://www.ted.com/talks/maysoon_zayid_i_got_99_problems_palsy_is_just_one.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdLyY20NHIA>

GOOD PRACTICE FOR WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE




Attitudes and
Approaches


Rights and
Responsibilities

Expectations and
Concerns

- * Human rights - all persons have a fundamental right to dignity and respect.
- * Person Centeredness - treating the person as an individual at the heart of service delivery.
- * Culture - person centred, zero tolerance towards abuse and neglect. Open - where people feel safe to raise concerns.
- * Advocacy - access to relevant and accurate information to allow people to make informed choices.
- * Confidentiality - information is secure and managed appropriately.
- * Empowerment - supports the right to lead as independent a life as possible.
- * Collaboration - agencies and services working together to safeguard vulnerable adults.

* Guiding Principles



 **SVP Code of
Conduct**

SVP National Policy and Procedure for the
Protection and Welfare of Children, Young
People and Vulnerable Adults



***Vulnerable Adult
Abuse**

- * We all have the right to lead the lives we choose safe from abuse.
- * Unfortunately there are times when adults are exposed to exploitation, neglect and harm.
- * We need to ensure that adults who are vulnerable receive all the assistance they need to keep themselves safe from harm and to be protected if harm occurs.
- * For SVP - as an organisation working with and assisting vulnerable adults there is a responsibility to ensure safe and appropriate services and that abuse is recognised and responded to wherever it occurs.

* Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

- * Liberty
- * Privacy
- * Respect and dignity
- * Freedom to choose
- * Opportunities to fulfil personal opportunities in daily life
- * Opportunity to live safely free from harm
- * Respect for possessions.

*** Deprivation of these rights may constitute 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.

*** What is meant by
abuse?**

- * Physical abuse: such as hitting, slapping, rough handling, misuse of medication, misuse of restraint.
- * Sexual abuse: making someone carry out a sexual act which they have not or cannot respond to.
- * Financial or material abuse: such as theft of money/possessions, misuse of someone's benefits, denying someone access to their money.

- * Neglect and acts of omission: such as not meeting a persons basic care needs.
- * Discriminatory abuse: 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.

- * Vulnerable adults may be abused by anyone including:
- * Relatives and family members
- * Professional staff, managers and paid care workers
- * Volunteers
- * Other service users
- * Neighbours
- * Friends and associates
- * People who deliberately exploit vulnerable people

*** Who might abuse?**

- * Abuse can take place anywhere including when a vulnerable adult:
- * Lives alone
- * Lives with a relative
- * Lives or is staying in a nursing or residential home
- * Attends a day care establishment
- * Is admitted to hospital
- * Is out in a public place

*** In what circumstances may abuse occur?**

- * If you have any concerns discuss them with the Designated Liaison Person in the Region
- * You may see or hear something happen
- * A vulnerable adult may disclose an allegation to you
- * A friend, fellow volunteer, family member or someone else may tell you something
- * You may notice injuries or physical signs that cause you concern
- * You may notice a victim or a perpetrator behaving in a certain way that alerts you that something may be wrong.

 **Be vigilant**



*** Responding to a
Disclosure**

 **Regional
Designated Liaison
Person**



* Scenarios

* Do

- * Remain calm
- * Ensure that no one is in immediate danger
- * Encourage the person to report if they can
- * Talk to the Designated Liaison Person
- * Keep a written record

* Don't

- * Promise to keep secrets
- * Be judgemental or over react
- * Challenge the alleged abuser
- * Attempt to investigate yourself
- * Do anything which might disturb evidence
- * Discourage anyone from reporting concerns

* Do's and Don'ts

- * To develop an awareness of vulnerability and vulnerable adults using SVP services;
- * To define what is meant by the term ‘vulnerable adult’;
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* Summary



Questions