

CHILD Safeguarding Policy TO BE READ BY ALL THOSE WORKING WITH 0-18s.

Safeguarding the Welfare of Children and Young People

New Wine Ireland (NWI) recognises the unique status of children and young people and seeks to ensure that they are respectfully treated as individuals. All Team members must accept that the welfare of the child is paramount. The highest standards for children and young people will be maintained in all pastoral, worship, prayer, and recreational activities. All Team members may have contact with children and young people; and therefore, all will be asked whether they have been subject to criminal or civil proceedings, and whether they have been found to have caused harm to children or put them at risk. All volunteers will be required to complete an Access NI Enhanced Disclosure form in line with NWI's robust recruitment procedures. NWI provides awareness raising on key policies and expectations and all volunteers work within a structure of support and supervision.

To provide the best experience possible to children and young people participating in NWI activities it is the duty of all people working with children and young people to prevent abuse and unsafe situations from occurring. Our procedures support this. All workers are required to report any abuse disclosed, discovered, or suspected, in line with these procedures. All Team Leaders will be provided with a hard copy of reporting arrangements.

NWI will collaborate fully with the statutory and voluntary authorities concerned with investigating allegations of abuse. It is important to note that it is the responsibility of the Police, (either PSNI or Garda Siochana), Social Services or Tusla and NSPCC (to investigate the truth of any allegation of abuse. Therefore, New wine staff or volunteers must not begin an investigation into a safeguarding concern, other than to gather facts and pass information on to the Safeguarding Officer. The Safeguarding Officer will refer to and discuss action required with the appropriate authorities.

Good Practice Guidelines

NWI will make every effort to ensure that children are as safe as possible at NWI activities and events.

- It is essential that any possible child abuse issues are not trivialised or exaggerated, and that the appropriate steps are followed as outlined in this policy.
- Please be aware that your words and actions may be open to misinterpretation, and therefore you should take great care to avoid situations in which they could be misunderstood and not to engage in conversations with children about personal matters which they have not raised.
- You should never pray with, or meet, a child or young person outside the organized activity for which you have volunteered, or to which you have been assigned.
- All prayer ministry with children or young people should take place under proper leadership supervision, not outside of the venue and not after 10.30pm.
- Ministry Leaders will be responsible for ensuring that abusive peer activities (such as bullying, etc.) do not occur and volunteers will contribute to this via role modelling, appropriate conduct and adhering to the requirements of the Volunteer Role Description.
- All steps must be taken to ensure that the site is safe for children and young people. Any safety concerns should be reported to your Team Leader for action. They will advise you of any action taken or required, in line with confidentiality requirements.

Dealing with an allegation

For all workers and volunteers, the most important consideration is to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people with whom they come into contact. We do this by safe recruitment practice, training, and role modelling. Any allegations of abuse will be taken seriously.

Allegations may come directly from a child or young person, or from another child/young person or fellow team-worker. Allegations may refer to a peer, family member, or to someone outside the family such as a teacher, youth leader, or pastor etc. No groups of people are exempt from being abusers or from being abused.

Abuse falls into four broad categories, which can be defined as follows:

- **Physical Injury.** Any injury to a child or young person caused by a person responsible for their care- this could be a parent or family member, or another person who is responsible for their care, or acting in a parental role.
- **Neglect.** A failure to meet a child or young person's basic needs for food, warmth, protection, and care.
- **Emotional Abuse.** The persistent, severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection that severely affects the emotional and/or behavioural development of a child or young person.
- **Sexual Abuse.** The use of a child or young person to meet an adult's sexual needs.

Procedure of Dealing with allegations of Abuse

If a child or young person begins to tell you about abuse, neglect or potential abuse or neglect it is vital that you do the following:

- Listen carefully to the child/young person but do not ask leading questions or place your own interpretation upon what they have said. If they begin to tell you something which you think is sensitive, try to go to a quiet area. You must ensure that an adult is within the eyesight of you and the child. Reassure the child or young person that they have done the right thing in telling you. Tell them what you need to do next.
- Do not promise not to tell anyone or say you will keep it a secret.
- Do report the child or young person's comments to your Team Leader immediately. Your Team leader must then discuss the issue with the Children/Young People's ministry lead, who will consult the Safeguarding officer.
- As soon as possible, write down what you were told by the child or young person, using his or her own words to describe the allegation, and pass this report to your Team Leader. Do not keep a copy of this.

New Wine Ireland has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse:

(Police, Garda Sioconna0,

The first person to be told of the allegation may be asked to give a statement to the Police. It is important to remember that what has been disclosed is regarded as confidential and should only be shared with others on a 'need-to-know' basis. Specifically, this will be the head of u18 ministry and Safeguarding officer.

After alleging or disclosing abuse, a child or young person may feel distressed about what will happen – they should be reassured that they have done the right thing, and someone should stay with them within the supervised team situation to provide reassurance until next steps are agreed.

It is important to remember that the best interests of the child or young person - and the need for the abuse to stop - come before the interests of NWI, parents or the alleged abuser. However, parents must be consulted prior to involving statutory authorities. This will be undertaken by the Safeguarding Officer who has experience of doing this.

We also recommend that, if abuse is disclosed to you, you seek the comfort and support of prayer ministry for yourself, initially via your team leader.

Ratio for 0-18s New Wine Ireland child and youth programmes

These ratios have been agreed by senior programme leaders in line with governmental advice (NI & ROI) on providing appropriate care and support for under 18s when in organised activities.

0 – 3s	1 adult to every 3 children
3 – 4s	1 adult to every 4 children
5 – 10s	1 adult to every 8 children
11 – 13s	1 adult to every 9 children
14 – 18s	1 adult to every 10 children

Procedure for Maximum Capacity at 0-18s Programmes

This plan has been established for when the adult/child ratio has reached its capacity for a particular age group. This policy is in place to ensure there are clear and straightforward steps that can be implemented should they be needed. The following steps are how the action should be implemented:

- Regular check of attendance in groups
- 0 – 18's Co-Ordinator is contacted.
- Leaders from other rooms within that age group (if applicable will be drawn from first if possible)
- Leaders from another age group will then be drawn from if Step 1 is not possible (This is to be overseen by the 0 – 18's Co-Ordinator).
- Draw from delegates attending the event who have been Access NI checked within the past 3 years and are known to team leaders.

Do not forget that you are here to ensure that the children/young people in your care have an enjoyable time and experience the message of God's love and care for them. You will be key in showing this by your words and actions.

Reviewed and updated by

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Safeguarding Officer

New Wine Ireland

02/07/23