

Document Reference Number	5.2 Elder Abuse (Protection & Rights)		
Document developed by	DCIL CEO & Support and Development Team	Document approved by	DCIL CEO & DCIL Board Members
Approval date	November 2020	Revision date	November 2023
Responsibility for Implementation	DCIL Staff	Responsibility for review and audit	DCIL Support & Development Team

POLICY STATEMENT:

Donegal Centre for Independent Living is committed in ensuring that ALL DCIL Staff understand the Elder Abuse Policy of DCIL Service.

PURPOSE:

To ensure that all DCIL staff have a clear understanding of the Elder Abuse Policy of the DCIL Service.

SCOPE:

This policy refers to all DCIL Staff (Core Staff and Personal Assistants) employed working within the Donegal Centre for Independent Living.

PROCEDURE:

- 5.2.1 Most People do not experience abuse; however, an older person can be harmed or abused by others. An older person may also experience more than one form of abuse at any given time.
- 5.2.2 It is the responsibility of all PAs to ensure that they are familiar with DCIL’s Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults at Risk of Abuse Policy. This document can be viewed on our website www.donegalcil.com with a hardcopy available upon request from DCIL reception
- 5.2.3 There are several types of abuse, any or all of which may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance.
- Physical abuse; including hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, or physical restraint.
 - Financial or material abuse; including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, powers of attorney, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
 - Psychological abuse; including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, intimidation or coercion.

- Neglect and acts of omission; including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of medication, adequate nutrition or heating.
 - Discriminatory abuse; including ageism, racism, sexism, that based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.
- 5.2.4 Who might abuse? Any individual or organisation may be guilty of abuse, a family member, relative, friend or care provider.
- 5.2.5 Where can abuse happen? **Anywhere**, home, residential, day-care or hospital settings.
- 5.2.6 How are cases of suspected elder abuse handled? All cases of elder abuse are treated seriously. All cases will be dealt with in confidence and, as much as possible, will be handled in a way that the respect the wishes of the older person.
- 5.2.7 All information regarding concerns or allegations of abuse or assessments of abuse of a vulnerable person should be shared, on '*a need to know*' basis in the interest of the vulnerable person, with the relevant statutory authorities and relevant professionals. No undertakings regarding secrecy can be given. Those working with vulnerable persons should make this clear to all parties involved. However, it is important to respect the wishes of the vulnerable person as much as is reasonably practical.
- 5.2.8 Any DCIL staff member who is guilty of abusing an Elder Person will be dismissed without notice from DCIL employment.
- 5.2.9 DCIL have an appointed Designated Officer to whom the alleged abuse cases will be reported. The Designated Officer will support the P.A. and /or Service Coordinator in dealing with the allegation.

The Designated Officer will be responsible for:

- Receiving concerns or allegations of abuse of alleged abuse regarding vulnerable persons.
 - Ensuring the appropriate manager is informed and collaboratively ensuring
 - necessary actions are identified and implemented.
 - Ensuring reporting obligations are met.
 - Other responsibilities, such as conducting preliminary assessments and further
 - Investigations may be assigned within a specific service.
 - The Designated Officer will usually be a relevant professional or work in a supervisory /management role.
 - All concerns/reports of abuse must be immediately notified to the designated or in the event of their absence the Support Co-Ordinator
- 5.2.10 The overall aim is to ensure the safety and well-being of an older person while proving support to stop the abusive behaviour.

LEGISLATION/ REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY /OTHER RELATED POLICIES:

Centre for Independent Living, Carmichael House, Dublin

HSE Elder Abuse Policy 2009

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults at Risk of Abuse (Incorporating Services for Elder Abuse and People with a Disability) 2014

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is the responsibility of DCIL staff to comply with the above policy.

It is the responsibility of the DCIL Support & Development Team to ensure the compliance of the above policy.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

It is the responsibility of the DCIL Support & Development Team to roll out and implement the above policy to all DCIL staff.

REVISION AND AUDIT:

This policy will be reviewed in November 2023 by the DCIL Support & Development Team and CEO of DCIL.