

*The main object for which the Company is established is to promote safeguarding of adults who may be vulnerable, protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and institutions and develop a national plan for promoting their welfare. This will be achieved by promoting inter-sectoral collaboration, developing public and professional awareness and education, and undertaking research to inform policy, practice and legislation in the Republic of Ireland.*

*Subsidiary Objects*

*As objects incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the Main Object, the Company shall have the following subsidiary objects: -*

*To do the following for the benefit of adults in the Republic of Ireland who may be vulnerable:*

- (a) To raise public understanding of attitudes, behaviours, circumstances and systems that create vulnerability that may result in abuse and that may require a safeguarding response.*
- (b) To promote the protection and rights of people who may be vulnerable by encouraging organisations and services to recognise, prevent and deal with exploitation and abuse effectively*
- (c) To inform and influence Government policy and legislation to safeguard the rights of people who may be vulnerable.*

**Safeguarding Ireland**

**Board Meeting**

**By VideoConference – Zoom**

**On**

**26<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.**

NAME	PRESENT	APOLOGIES	INITIALS
Patricia Rickard Clarke.	X		PRTC
David Byrne.		X	DB
Colm Nolan		X	CN
Annmarie O'Connor	X		AMOC
Louise O'Mahony	X		LOM
Nora Owen.	X		NO
Amanda Phelan.	X		AP
Phelim Quinn.		X	PQ
Mervyn Taylor.		X	MT

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

NAME	POSITION	PRESENT	APOLOGIES	INITIALS
Tim Hanly.	GM, HSE NSO	X		TH
Ronan Cavanagh	Cavanagh Communications.	X		RC
Paschal Moynihan.	Safeguarding Ireland.	X		PM

#### ISSUED IN ADVANCE:

- **Board Documents.**
  - Agenda.
  - Draft Minutes of meeting 8th March, 2022.
  - Final approved Minutes Board Meeting 18th January, 2022.
  - Activities 2022 to date.
  - S.I. Financial Report to Board 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. to 21<sup>st</sup> April.
- **Correspondence.**
  - Letter to Geraldine Sutton 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
  - Letter to Minister Butler 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022.
- **Draft Updated Policies and other documents.**
  - Data Security Policy for review.
  - Records Retention Policy for review.
  - Safeguarding Policy for review.
  - Whistleblowing Policy for review.
  - Risk Register Update 2022.
- **Other.**
  - S.I. Submission to CBI on its Consumer Outlook Report.
  - SPG Workplan April 2022.

National Safeguarding Ireland (trading as Safeguarding Ireland) (a company limited by guarantee) CRO #612163.

RCN #20204851 Contact: [paschal@safeguardingireland.org](mailto:paschal@safeguardingireland.org)

Directors: David Byrne, Colm Nolan, Louise O'Mahony, Annmarie O'Connor, Nora Owen, Amanda Phelan, Phelim Quinn, Patricia T Rickard-Clarke (Chair), Mervyn Taylor.

### Actions from meeting March 8th.

No.	Action	Status	Resp.
1	Write to GS on behalf of the Board expressing its gratitude and good wishes.	Complete.	PTRC & PM
2.	Finalise approved Board minutes of 18 <sup>th</sup> January.	Complete.	PM
3.	Finalise Workplan for 2022.	Ongoing.	PTRC, CN, RC, PM.
4.	Try to arrange a further meeting with JP Nolan of HSE.	Meeting arranged.	PTRC & PM.
5.	Letter to HSE from S.I. re status of new safeguarding policy	Not Complete.	PTRC & PM
6.	Commission RedC poll on safeguarding awareness as comparator to poll conducted in 2016.	Not complete.	PTRC & RC.
7.	Establish sub group of SI to review Dr. Browne report, arrange a meeting with Minister for Justice and plan activities accordingly.	Complete.	PTRC.
8.	Arrange publication of SI Strategy 2022-2025.	Complete.	PM
9.	Finalise arrangements for Adult Safeguarding Charter.	Ongoing.	PQ & PM.
	In advance of next meeting, Board members to review policies on Complaints, Record Retention, Data Security, Data Sharing, Whistleblowing and Safeguarding – forward any suggested amendments to PM.	Complete.	All.
10.	Circulate Trustee Handbook to Board members.	Not Complete.	PM.

#### 1. Welcome.

- The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies as above.

#### 2. Conflicts of Interest.

- The Chair asked if Board members had any conflicts of interest to declare. There were no declared conflicts of interest.

#### 3. Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 8th.

- There were no suggested amendments to the draft minutes and they were adopted.

#### 4. Actions from previous meeting.

- The Chair updated the meeting on the status of actions from the previous meeting as per the table above.
- In relation to finalisation of the Workplan for 2022, completion of this is dependent on the outcome of the meeting scheduled with JP Nolan of the HSE. That meeting has been arranged for May 3rd.
- In relation to writing to the HSE on its safeguarding policy, S.I. will get an update at the scheduled meeting with JP Nolan. TH confirmed that finalisation of this policy is largely dependent on the Department of Health finalising its safeguarding policy.
- On the issue of conducting a Red C poll on safeguarding awareness, this will be covered in the agenda under the public awareness topic.
- The Adult Safeguarding Charter is an item for discussion on the agenda.
- The Trustee Handbook has not been circulated as yet as a final print is awaited from Catalyst.

#### 5. Activities.

- The Chair referred to the Activities Report and highlighted some specific matters.
- One item which is not on the Activities list is that S.I. made a submission on 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the Central bank of Ireland on its Consumer Outlook Report.
- The Chair said that Safeguarding Ireland, in collaboration with the HSE, had taken over the administrative aspect of the 5 Nations Seminar Series.
- The draft Codes of Practice issued by the Decision Support Service are currently undergoing legal review and once this is completed will go for Ministerial approval and publication in early June.
- The HSE Wards of Court guidelines have been published and circulated widely.
- Safeguarding Ireland made a submission to An Garda Síochána in relation to its Older Persons Strategy.

#### 6. Public Awareness.

- The Chair invited RC to update the meeting in relation to public awareness.
- RC said that public awareness activities had been relatively quiet so far this year but activity is going to increase considerably over the coming weeks and months.
- The Safeguarding Ireland Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025 has been published and widely circulated. A news release will be issued on the S.I. website.
- The Adult Safeguarding Charter is almost ready and organisations are being encouraged to sign up to it. This will be publicised on social media and other avenues.
- The research document is completed and is gone for publication. A meeting will be arranged with the Minister for Justice and there will be a press release and other activities in relation to this.
- A significant public awareness campaign will be launched in June on Enduring Powers of Attorney. The exact timing has yet to be decided as there are a number of proposed amendments to the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act that will need to be taken into account.

- June 15th is International World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The HSE National Safeguarding Office has traditionally taken the lead on this with videos, posters, purple ribbons and other promotion materials. Members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee have been encouraged to support WEAAD and Safeguarding Ireland will also mark it in some manner also.
- The S.I. newsletter will contain information in relation to all of the public awareness events.
- S.I. will also issue a policy piece to coincide with commencement of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act.
- In September, there will be a public awareness campaign in relation to Advance Healthcare Directives.
- National Adult Safeguarding Day will take place on Friday, 11th of November and work will commence on this shortly.
- In relation to the Red C poll on safeguarding awareness, Ronan confirmed that this has not been commissioned as yet. However, he did make the point that this would not be a significant barometer in comparing awareness now with the original Poll in the sense that measuring people's awareness varies depending on the amount of publicity there has been in relation to safeguarding or other matters and other influences.
- Ronan also said that he may post something on the SI website in relation to the 5 Nations Seminar series.

## 7. Finance Update.

- The Chair noted that CN was unable to attend today's meeting but he had prepared a Finance update which had been circulated to members in advance of today's meeting.
- The Chair also confirmed that the audited accounts and financial statements for 2021 had been completed. These will need to be approved by the S.I. Board at the next Board meeting and then for approval at the AGM, which should take place following the Board meeting. She noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for 7th June and, therefore, the AGM should take place directly after that. The audited accounts and financial statements would be issued prior to the AGM and if anybody has any queries in relation to them to please contact CN.

## 8. Update/launch of research document – '*Identifying Risks – Sharing Responsibilities: The Case for a Comprehensive Approach to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults*'. (Title to be finalised).

- The Chair confirmed that this report was now finalised and had gone to design and print. She said it was a very comprehensive document and contained detailed information on many policy areas and complex matters such as data sharing. She said that the plan would be to meet the Minister for Justice when the report is published.
- There was some discussion in relation to when the meeting with the Minister for Justice should be sought and it was agreed that it would likely be mid to late May before the document is ready.

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- The Chair proposed that Safeguarding Ireland write to Dr. Michael Browne formally thanking him for his work on the research and this was agreed by the Board.

#### **9. Charter and website arrangements.**

- The Chair invited PM to update the meeting in relation to the Adult Safeguarding Charter. PM informed the meeting that the Charter content had been agreed at the Board meeting in March and that, following suggestions at the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee meeting, an accessible version of the Charter would be available on the website. Safeguarding Ireland had asked Acquired Brain Injury Ireland to assist with the development of an accessible version of the Charter and this had now been completed. In effect, the Adult Safeguarding Charter was now almost ready and some final additional work needed to be completed with Combined Media in relation to posting the Charter on the website and the associated administrative arrangements. PM said the Charter is likely to be on the website before the end of this week, i.e., by 29th April.

#### **10. Reviews and Updates.**

- The Chair invited PM to update the meeting in relation to policy reviews. PM confirmed that four policies were due for review, namely the Data Security Policy, the Data Retention Policy, the Safeguarding Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy. He said he had made some small amendments to the policies and acceptance of these amendments were proposed by NO and seconded by AP.

#### **11. AOB.**

- The Chair invited AMOC to update the meeting in relation to the State Payments Group Workplan 2022. AMOC said that there had been some changes made to the Workplan just to provide greater context and more detail in relation to the plans of the SPG for the coming year. AP confirmed that TCD will host students from the University of Pennsylvania from May 16th. These students will be involved in financial abuse prevalence studies in collaboration with the State Payments Group as part of one of its projects identified in the Workplan for 2022.
- PM referred to the Risk Register which he said had been updated in February. He said this will be a standing item on Board meeting agendas into the future and he said if Board members had any suggestions or concerns in relation to the Risk Register that these should be notified to him or to the Chair.
- The Chair again referred to the proposed date of the AGM as June 7th.
- The Chair gave a brief update in relation to the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act. She said that a draft detailed Bill will be published in the second week of May and S.I. will look at this in some detail. She also referred to the Oireachtas Committee report which made 64 recommendations.
- TH informed the meeting on the implementation of the COVID-19 Nursing Homes Report. He said one of the issues that they're looking at is nursing home residents' access to community services. He said there should be equitable access to community health services for people in residential care and this is one of the recommendations that are being considered. He said that there are

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difficulties in relation to integration of different aspects of the report but he will update future meetings in relation to progress.

**Actions from meeting.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resp.</b>
1	Finalise Workplan for 2022.	End June.	PTRC, PM, CN, RC
2.	File approved Board minutes of March 8 <sup>th</sup> .	End April	PM
3.	Commission RedC poll on safeguarding awareness as comparator to poll conducted in 2016.	TBC	RC.
4.	Circulate Trustee Handbook to Board members.	End May.	PM.
5.	Letter to HSE from S.I. re status of new safeguarding policy	April.	PTRC & PM
6.	Finalise Adult safeguarding Charter arrangements.	End April.	PM
7.	Commence preparations for National Adult Safeguarding Day.	End May.	RC.
8.	Organise and prepare for AGM.	End May.	PTRC & PM
9.	Arrange and plan meeting with Minister for Justice	End May.	PTRC, NO, PM, RC.
10.	Write to Dr. Browne in acknowledgement of completion of research.	End May.	PTRC & PM.

**Meeting Concluded at 17.45.**

**Next Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Note meeting dates for 2022.**

**18 January**

**08 March**

**26 April**

**07 June**

**26 July**

**13 September**

**01 November**

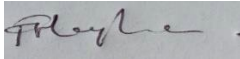
**Signed:**



**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022.**

**Patricia Rickard-Clarke. Chair.**

**Signed:**



**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022.**

**Paschal Moynihan, Secretary.**