



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

ADULT SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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VERSION CONTROL

This document is a dynamic document that may be amended at any time to improve the content. The document is maintained by the Group Commander (Prevention), NIFRS Headquarters.

Amendments are detailed as below:

No	Issued	Amendment	Prepared by	Reason for change
1	04/11/2019	New Adult Safeguarding Statement issued	Julie Rea	Statutory requirement

1 PURPOSE

This Statement will enable Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe **'adults at risk of harm'** with whom it works alongside. NIFRS acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any concerns, disclosures or allegations of abuse in relation to adult safeguarding.

2 SCOPE

The Statement and procedures relate to the safeguarding of **adults at risk of harm**. Adults at risk are defined as individuals aged over 18 who:

- are experiencing or at risk of abuse;
- have care and support needs; and
- as a result of those care and support needs, are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse.

3 STATEMENT USERS

This Statement applies to all personnel working on behalf of NIFRS. For the purpose of this Statement, 'personnel' refers to all NIFRS employees, volunteers and anyone who is employed by the organisation or who has a contractual relationship with the organisation.

4 BACKGROUND

Safeguarding is the term used to protect the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals. The Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership (2015) regional policy places the responsibility for harm caused with those who perpetrate it.

Harm resulting from abuse, exploitation or neglect violates the basic human rights of a person to be treated with respect and dignity, to have control over their life and property and to live free from fear.

5 WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship (or caused by the individual themselves, eg, self-harm) where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to another individual or violates their human or civil rights. Abuse includes:

- physical (including hitting, pushing and rough handling);
- neglect (including deliberately withholding the necessities of life like food and heating);
- sexual (including stalking, grooming and indecent exposure);
- psychological/emotional (including threats, humiliation and shouting);
- financial (including misappropriation or misuse of benefits, money and property);

- institutional (including systems which violate the dignity and human rights of an adult); and
- exploitation (including human trafficking, domestic abuse and slavery).

6 IMPLEMENTATION

It is acknowledged that significant numbers of adults at risk are more likely to experience abuse. It is important that NIFRS has an Adult Safeguarding Statement and a set of procedures to manage all adult safeguarding issues.

In order to implement the Statement and procedures, NIFRS will work to:

- make an adult safeguarding referral to the relevant Trust and/or PSNI as appropriate;
- will ensure that the Designated Officers (DO) manage incidents of adult safeguarding in line with NIFRS reporting procedures;
- raise awareness of adult safeguarding to ensure that all operational personnel can play their part in identifying and responding to abuse;
- ensure confidentiality in line with data protection legislation including General Data Protection Regulation;
- work in partnership with other agencies;
- endeavour to keep up-to-date with national developments relating to adult safeguarding; and
- promote an approach that concentrates on improving the life for the adults concerned.

7 LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

All operational personnel will receive a safeguarding awareness session exploring:

- what safeguarding is;
- raising awareness of the different categories of abuse;
- defining the terms - concern, disclosure and allegation;
- discussing where operational personnel would come across a safeguarding issue; and
- recognising that harm is wrong, being able to recognise the signs of abuse, reduce the opportunities for harm, and know how and when to report an adult safeguarding issue.

This learning will be monitored through the Tracking and Training database.

8 REPORTING PROCEDURE

If NIFRS personnel have witnessed or have been informed of:

- a concern or disclosure regarding the safety or well-being of an adult; or
- an allegation against a NIFRS employee or volunteer;

the reporting procedure is:

- 1 **If you believe the adult to be in immediate danger, or you believe a crime has been committed, contact PSNI immediately** (and then continue from point 2).
- 2 Contact Regional Control Centre (RCC) immediately on 028 9266 2061.
- 3 Inform them you have an **adult safeguarding issue** to report and ask for a DO to contact you urgently.
- 4 Provide your name, role, location and phone number to be contacted on.
- 5 When contacted by the DO, provide a factual account of what the concern, disclosure or allegation is.
- 6 The DO will advise on any further action to be taken.
- 7 Confidentiality is paramount. Details of the concern, disclosure or allegation should only be disclosed to relevant parties identified by the DO.
- 8 DO to ensure an SC66 is completed and forwarded to ACFRO (Service Delivery).

9 COMPLAINTS

Should NIFRS fall below the expectations set out in the Adult Safeguarding Statement, the following option is available:

- Complaint via NIFRS website.

NIFRS believes that by listening to and acting upon complaints we can improve the service provided to you.

10 WHISTLEBLOWING

Should NIFRS fall below the expectations set out in the Adult Safeguarding Statement, personnel can refer to the NIFRS Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure. Whistleblowing enables personnel to raise concerns about potential malpractice or wrongdoing. Malpractice or wrongdoing, in this context, can include negligence, misconduct, incompetence and unethical practice.

<G:\Document Management System\DMS\Policies\Policies\Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure.pdf>

11 SAFEGUARDING LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The following table sets out the safeguarding learning and development framework for NIFRS to ensure that all operational personnel have the necessary awareness and competencies to ensure compliance with the ethos of this Statement. All learning and development resources reflect best practice and comply with statutory requirements.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES	DELIVERED TO	DELIVERED BY	COURSE (CODE)	FREQUENCY
Awareness Raising Session	All NIFRS operational personnel	Safeguarding Champion and/or DO	Awareness Raising Session (SG001)	Every 3 years
Child Protection Module (CPM) 1	NIFRS Trainees/ Designated Officers	Safeguarding Champion	Child Protection Awareness (CPM1)	During initial training/each year (unless completing Module 2)
Child Protection Module (CPM) 2	Personnel in a regulated position including DOs	Safeguarding Champion	Child Protection Regulated Position (CPM2)	Every 3 years
Child Protection Module (CPM) 3	DOs	Health & Social Care Trust (HSCT)	Child Protection and DO (CPADO)	Every 3 years
Child Protection Module (CPM) 4	Safeguarding Champions	HSCT/ Volunteer Now	OCN Level 3 Keeping Children Safe: Training the Trainers	Accredited every year by HSCT

12 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Performance expectations are detailed in the Prevention & Protection Performance Expectations, which is available at:

<G:\Prevention & Protection\PP DMS\Performance Expectations>

The following methods will be used to seek assurance that performance expectations are being met:

- Area and District management meetings;
- Operations Performance Inspectorate audits;
- Prevention & Protection Delivery Group assurance meetings;
- ACFRO (Service Delivery), acting as Adult Safeguarding Champion, accountability meetings; and
- ACFRO (Service Delivery), acting as Adult Safeguarding Champion, point sample audits.

13 CIRCULATION

This Statement is circulated via the DMS Policy Folder at:

<G:\Document Management System\DMS\Policies>

14 STATEMENT REVIEW

This Statement will be reviewed on a three-year cycle, or sooner if required. Reviews will be co-ordinated by the GC (Prevention), NIFRS HQ.