



Child Safeguarding Statement & Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement

(A) Introduction

The Bray Community Addiction Team Clg (BCAT) offer a number of service provisions throughout the continuum of care to those seeking support for addiction issues (1-1 key working, NSP, Drop In, Group Work, SMART Recovery). As part of our tailored services, BCAT also provides a programme specifically aimed at the needs of service users under the age of 18 years and engaged in substance use. BCAT also provide services which children and young people have access to, in the company of their parents/ caregivers. The current Child Safeguarding Statement and Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement outlines the procedures and principles governing the safety and wellbeing of all those using this service.

BCAT takes its statutory obligations seriously as set out in national guidelines and legislation for the protection and reporting of child protection and/ or any concerns regarding abuse of children or vulnerable adults at risk of abuse. This statement seeks to address our compliance issues as set out in legislation, including but not limited to the Children First Act (2015); the Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), The HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse (2014) National Policy & Procedures, the Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act, 2012, and The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. See also the Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Under 18s Service) and Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy (you can ask for a copy of either or both of these policies from any staff member).

BCAT has a publicly declared 'No Tolerance' approach to any form of abuse and promotes a culture which supports this ethos. All BCAT policies and procedures promote welfare, reflect inclusion and transparency in the provision of services, and promote a culture of safeguarding.

This Safeguarding Statement provides a summary of policies that inform BCAT's child protection and protection of vulnerable persons at risk of abuse protection obligations. For a more comprehensive insight contact the manager to view/ access BCAT's policies in this regard. As a relevant service BCAT is fully committed to the ongoing implementation of the following policies and procedures in order to limit risk to children and young people, and vulnerable adults utilising our service.

(B) Child Safeguarding

The Safety, welfare and development of children are key priorities of BCAT. The following guiding principles to safeguard children from harm are informed by Children First Guidance and Legislation:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- All children must be treated equally.
- Child protection is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the best interests of the children.

1. Child Safeguarding – Policies and Procedures:

- (a) Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service: See Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Under 18s Service) and Child Safeguarding Statement.
- (b) Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children: See Recruitment and Selection Policy and Garda Vetting Policy.
- (c) Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm: See Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Under 18s Service) and Child Safeguarding Statement (2023).
- (d) Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla: See Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Under 18s Service) and Child Safeguarding Statement. Note: the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) (staff member with organisational responsibility for reporting child welfare concerns within BCAT) is the Manager. In the DLP's absence, the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is the Team/ Project Leader.
- (e) Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service that are mandated persons (mandated persons are legally obliged to (i) report the harm of children at or above a defined threshold to Tusla and (ii) to assist Tusla if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report). Note: All staff members are mandated persons. See also the Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Under 18s Service) and Child Safeguarding Statement.
- (f) Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person (the appointed person in BCAT who is the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement): See Child Protection and

Welfare Policy (Under 18s Service) and Child Safeguarding Statement. Note: the Relevant Person in BCAT is the Manager.

2. Commitment to Safeguard Children from Harm

- (a) BCAT believes that the welfare of the children and young people attending our Under 18s service is paramount.
- (b) BCAT is committed to safeguarding the children and young people who access the service.
- (c) BCAT is committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
- (d) BCAT's policy declaration applies to all staff members (employees directly employed by BCAT, volunteers, students, Tus and Community Employment workers), it also applies to agencies providing in reach services for the time they are on the premises and those for whom BCAT has legal responsibility. All subcommittees, board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our Child Safeguarding Policy and accompanying procedures.
- (e) BCAT promotes the following practice in relation to Child Protection and Welfare:
 - (i) All Staff members will show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of children and young people.
 - (ii) Parents/legal guardians, young people and children using our services and involved with BCAT are informed of our Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Under 18s) & Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - (iii) Inappropriate behaviour and language by adults, young people and children should not go unchallenged.
 - (iv) Responses should be appropriate to the age and the developmental needs of the child/young person.
 - (v) The Designated Liaison Person will deal with any complaints or issues arising which concern the safety or welfare of a child and or young person.
 - (vi) All new staff members (including volunteers) will be Garda Vetted and references will be sought, checked and kept on file.
 - (vii) Staff members need to be alert to the possibility of child abuse and to support children/ young people to engage with services relevant to their needs.

3. Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection

Any person with a concern regarding the wellbeing of a young person using BCAT services should immediately contact a member of staff to discuss their concern. The Designated Liaison Person for reporting concerns is the Manager of BCAT. However, any person can make a Child Protection complaint through the Tusla Duty Social Worker:

<p>Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Manager</p> <p>Bray Community Addiction Team, 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow,</p> <p>Ph: 01 2764692</p>	<p>Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP): Team/Project Leader</p> <p>Bray Community Addiction Team, 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow,</p> <p>Ph: 01 2764692</p>	<p>Tusla: Duty Social Worker</p> <p>Wicklow Primary Healthcare Centre, Port Road, Wicklow</p> <p>Ph: 076 6958400</p> <p>Tusla Duty Social Work Office</p> <p>Child and Family Agency, Unit 9, Nutgrove Retail Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14</p> <p>Ph: 01 9213400</p>
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4. Relevant Person for the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Relevant Person is the person who is appointed by the BCAT Board of Directors to be the first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement. The Relevant Person in BCAT is the Manager and in their absence the Team/ Project Leader.

<p>Relevant Person: Manager</p> <p>Bray Community Addiction Team, 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow,</p> <p>Ph: 01 2764692</p>	<p>Deputy Relevant Person: Team/Project Leader</p> <p>Bray Community Addiction Team, 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow,</p> <p>Ph: 01 2764692</p>	<p>Tusla (General Enquiries): Duty Social Worker</p> <p>Wicklow Primary Healthcare Centre, Port Road, Wicklow</p> <p>Ph: 076 6958400</p> <p>Tusla Duty Social Work Office</p> <p>Child and Family Agency, Unit 9, Nutgrove Retail Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14</p> <p>Ph: 01 9213400</p>
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5. Risk Assessment

In accordance with Children First Act 2015, BCAT has engaged in a review of our service provision incorporating consultations with relevant stakeholders. A risk assessment was undertaken by the Team Leader and potential risks have been identified, and appropriate and proportional measures put in place to address concerns. See also the Child Protection and Welfare Policy (Under 18s Service).

Risk Description	Procedures in Place to manage the risk	Immediate/Future Actions
Unsuitable adults having access to young people	Garda Vetting for all. References checked and recruitment procedures.	Adapt Garda Vetting Policy to reflect yearly vetting of employees working with young people.
Young people attending service alone	For young people under the age of 16, the BCAT safeguarding procedures for attending appointments are clearly explained to the parent/ legal guardian at intake. For young people over the age of 16 the BCAT safeguarding procedures are explained to them at intake and consent to parental involvement is encouraged.	Regular reminders of safeguarding procedures are shared with the parent / legal guardians. Regular reminders of safeguarding procedures are shared with young people over the age of 16.
Young people attending service under the influence	Parents/ legal guardians of children under the age of 16 are contacted to arrange collection of their children from the service. Young people above the age of 16 will be asked to leave and an appointment will be made for a more suitable time.	Staff awareness and training of procedures in place to manage this.
NEP ¹ on site when young people attending service	Clear procedure in place. Under 18s are seen in Dublin Road on Wednesdays so they are never in the same building as over 18s Drug Users. Monday & Friday – Family support – U24s but not drug users.	Ongoing risk assessment.

¹ Needle Exchange Programme.

Risk Description	Procedures in Place to manage the risk	Immediate/Future Actions
Young people and worker not visible from outside	Clear procedure in place.	Move all 1-1 appointments to rooms that are visible from outside
Inappropriate behaviour in Drop In	No Children in Drop In Service.	
Risk of harm to a child by a staff member, including inappropriate or abusive behaviour by staff	BCAT Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure. Recruitment and Selection Procedures. Garda Vetting. Induction for all staff. Staff Supervision Policy. Child Protection training for all. TCI ² training for all.	Ongoing risk assessment.
Staff befriending young people online; risks related to online activities	Online safety training for all. Staff supervision. IT policy for staff and young people.	Ongoing review of IT policy. Raise awareness of staff members in relation to online risks.
Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member	Mandatory training: 'An Introduction to Children First' mandatory eLearning for all BCAT Staff. BCAT Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Reporting Procedure. Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons. Children First included in Employee Induction.	
Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child	'An Introduction to Children First' mandatory eLearning training for all BCAT staff. Child friendly information in relation on how to report if they feel unsafe	
Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act	Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person for the purpose of this Child	

² Therapeutic Crisis Intervention.

Risk Description	Procedures in Place to manage the risk	Immediate/Future Actions
2015 and/ or related guidance in BCAT	Safeguarding Statement Internal audit and compliance assurance measures	
Correct management of disclosures	Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection and Welfare Policy in place.	Staff awareness of : Child Protection and Welfare policy (Under 18s). Child Safeguarding Statement. Awareness of Children First and Mandatory Reporting. All staff trained in Children First Guidelines with HSeLanD. Ongoing review of best practice.
Feuding (Feuding is a risk from e.g. Family feuding or Neighbour/ people known to each other and presenting to the service at the same time)	All staff trained in TCI.	Incident reporting/recording procedure in place.
One to one lone working	Lone Working policy in place. Supervision. Training. Team Meetings.	Risk Assess. Ongoing review.
Challenging Behaviours	Child Protection Policy. TCI Training.	Ensure training and policy is current.
Young people self-harming /evidence of self harm	Child Protection Policy. Suicide, Self Harm and Self Injury Intervention Policy.	Develop procedure on how to deal with same.

(C) Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding

1. Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding – Policies and Procedures:

- (a) Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a vulnerable person availing of our service: See Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement & Policy.
- (b) Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children: See Recruitment and Selection Policy and Garda Vetting Policy.
- (c) Procedure for provision of and access to Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm: See Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement & Policy.
- (d) Procedure for the reporting of any abuse or welfare concerns to the HSE/ the Gardaí: See Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement & Policy.
- (e) Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service that are designated persons: See Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement & Policy. Note: the person with organisational responsibility for reporting within BCAT is the Manager (Designated Officer) and in their absence the Team/ Project Leader. However, this should not preclude all members of staff from reporting concerns if the need arises.
- (f) Procedure for appointing a Designated Officer. See Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement & Policy.

2. Commitment to Safeguard Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse from Harm

- (a) BCAT is committed to safeguarding vulnerable persons at risk of abuse who access the service.
- (b) BCAT is committed to upholding the rights of every person who attends our service, including the rights to liberty, privacy, respect and dignity, freedom to choose and the opportunity to live safely without fear of abuse in any form :
- (c) BCAT's policy declaration applies to all staff members (employees directly employed by BCAT, volunteers, students, Tus and Community Employment workers). It also applies to agencies providing in reach services for the time they are on the premises and those for whom BCAT has legal responsibility. All subcommittees, board members, staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by the policies, procedures and guidance encompassed by this policy declaration and our Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy and accompanying procedures.
- (d) BCAT promotes the following practice in relation to the Protection and Welfare of Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse:

- (i) All staff members will show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of vulnerable persons at risk of abuse.
- (ii) All persons using our services and involved with BCAT are informed of our Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy & Statement.
- (iii) Inappropriate behaviour and language by adults, young people and children should not go unchallenged.
- (iv) Responses should be appropriate to the needs/ developmental ability of the person.
- (v) The Designated Officer will deal with any complaints or issues arising which concern the concern or welfare of a vulnerable person at risk of abuse.
- (vi) All new staff members (including volunteers) will be Garda Vetted and references will be sought, checked and kept on file.
- (vii) Staff need to be alert to the possibility of abuse and to support the victim to engage with services relevant to their needs.

3. Designated Officer for Protection of Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse

Any person with a concern regarding the wellbeing of a vulnerable person using BCAT services should immediately contact a member of staff to discuss their concern. The Designated Officer is the person who is appointed by the BCAT Board of Directors for reporting concerns to. The Designated Officer in BCAT is the Manager. However, any person can make a complaint through the HSE Safeguarding and Protection Team:

<p>Designated Officer: Manager</p> <p>Bray Community Addiction Team, 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow,</p> <p>Ph: 01 2764692</p>	<p>Deputy: Team/Project Leader</p> <p>Bray Community Addiction Team, 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow,</p> <p>Ph: 01 2764692</p>	<p>HSE: HSE Safeguarding and Protection Team (Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire and Dublin South East)</p> <p>Ballinteer Health Centre, Ballinteer Avenue, Ballinteer, Dublin 16</p> <p>Ph: 01 2164511</p> <p>Email: Safeguarding.cho6@hse.ie</p>
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4. Risk Assessment

In accordance with the HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy and Procedures (2014), BCAT has engaged in a review of our service provision incorporating consultations with relevant stakeholders. A risk assessment was undertaken by the Team Leader and potential risks have been identified, and appropriate and proportional measures put in place to address concerns. (See also Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy).

BCAT notes the following:

1. That people using the service are informed of their rights to be free from abuse and supported to exercise these rights including access to advocacy.
2. The assessment and management of risk should promote independence, real choices and social inclusion of vulnerable adults.
3. Risks change as circumstances change
4. Risks can be minimised but not eliminated.
5. Involvement with vulnerable persons, their families, advocates and practitioners from a range of services and organisations help to improve the quality of risk assessments and decision making.
6. In safeguarding terms, the aim of risk assessment and management is to prevent abuse occurring, to reduce the likelihood of it occurring and to minimise the impacts of abuse by responding effectively if it does occur.

Risk Description	Procedures in Place to manage the risk	Immediate/Future Actions
Unsuitable adults having access to vulnerable people	Garda Vetting for all applicable staff members. References Checked and recruitment procedures.	Adapt Garda Vetting Policy to reflect yearly vetting of staff members.
Adults attending the service alone	The BCAT safeguarding procedures are explained to all persons at intake and consent forms are signed at intake.	Regular reminders of safeguarding procedures are shared with clients.
Adults attending service(s) including the Drop In under the influence	Adults will be asked to leave and an appointment will be made for a more suitable time.	Staff awareness and training of procedures in place to manage this.
Adult client and worker not visible from outside	Clear procedure in place.	Move all 1-1 appointments to rooms that are visible from outside.
Inappropriate behaviour in Drop In	Inappropriate behaviour not tolerated in Drop In.	Ongoing risk assessment.
Risk of inappropriate or abusive behaviours by staff etc	Garda Vetting. Induction for all staff. Appropriate training for all. TCI training for all.	Ongoing risk assessment.
Staff befriending clients	Online safety training for all. Staff supervision. IT policy for staff and all clients.	Ongoing review of IT policy. Raise awareness of staff in relation to online risks.
Correct management of disclosures	Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy & Statement in	Staff awareness of : Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse

Risk Description	Procedures in Place to manage the risk	Immediate/Future Actions
	place.	Safeguarding Policy and Statement. Awareness of Responsibilities around Reporting. All staff familiar with the HSE document 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse – National Policy and Procedures" (2014) (https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/personsatriskofabuse.pdf). Ongoing review of best practice.
Feuding (Feuding is a risk from e.g. Family feuding or Neighbour/ people known to each other and presenting to the service at the same time)	All staff trained in TCI.	Incident reporting/recording procedure in place.
One to one lone working.	Lone Working policy in place. Supervision. Training. Team Meetings.	Risk Assess. Ongoing review.
Challenging Behaviours	Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy. TCI Training.	Ensure training and policy is current.
Client self-harming / evidence of self harm	Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy. Suicide, Self Harm and Self Injury Intervention Policy.	Develop procedure on how to deal with same.
Evidence of Client Self Neglect	Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Policy.	Ensure training and policy is current
Correct management of a complaint made	Complaints Policy.	Complaints policy clearly sets out policy and procedures around complaints to protect staff and client.

(D) Implementation

- (a) BCAT recognises that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding and Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement and the policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children and vulnerable persons at risk of abuse safe from harm while availing of our service.
- (b) This Child Safeguarding and Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- (c) This statement is displayed in the service. It has been provided to all staff members (including, volunteers) and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to all service users and parents/care givers on request. Any stakeholder can seek from BCAT a copy of organisational policy as it pertains to this document.

Signed (Print Name): _____

Signed (Signature): _____

(Manager, Bray Community Addiction Team)

Address: 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow and 4B Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Date: _____

All queries about these statements and the risk assessments they are informed by should be directed to the Manager at Bray Community Addiction Team, 37 Beech Wood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, or Ph: 01 2764692.