

VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY OF OPEN SPECTRUM CLG

OPEN SPECTRUM provides extra curricular activities for vulnerable adults between the ages of 18 and 30 who are on the autistic spectrum. Our volunteer-led service is designed around the needs of these vulnerable adults and we comply with all national legislation and the HSE's Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy and Procedures to promote the safety and well-being of our participants.

1. PHYSICAL INJURY

Premises are inspected by our Health and Safety Officer. Parent/guardian is on site or within reach by phone. First Aid kit is with parent co-ordinator on site. In case of serious injury coach will call emergency services.

2. FIRE

Fire safety standards and drill have been checked and shared with coaches by the Health and Safety Officer. The coach is responsible for evacuation.

3. RISK OF DISTRESS TO PARTICIPANT CAUSED BY ANOTHER PARTICIPANT

All participants have subscribed to the OS Code of Conduct. If agreement is not reached, participant accused of causing distress may be asked by the coach to withdraw from activity.

4. RISK OF DISTRESS TO PARTICIPANT CAUSED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN
Parents/guardians have subscribed to the OS Code of Conduct. If agreement to desist is not reached between parent and coach, parent accused of causing distress may be asked by coach to withdraw from activity.

5. RISK OF FLIGHT
Premises are inspected by Health and Safety Officer. Appropriate coach/participant ratios are maintained. Parent/guardian is on site or easily reachable by phone.

6. RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID 19
Open Spectrum adheres to all national legislation and guidelines regarding the spread of Covid 19.

7. RISK OF ABUSE OR EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY COACH/VOLUNTEER

Open Spectrum coaches and volunteers are Garda vetted and subscribe to the Open Spectrum Code of Behaviour for Open Spectrum coaches.

8. BREACH OF PRIVACY/DISRESPECT OF AUTONOMY

Open Spectrum will ensure that vulnerable adults only remain on the Open Spectrum database and participate in Open Spectrum activities of their own volition.

PROCEDURES

Our Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the HSE Safeguarding Policy Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse - National Policy and Procedures. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard vulnerable adults while they are availing of our service: 1. Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against coaches/volunteers of a vulnerable adult availing of our service. 2. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of coaches and volunteers to work with vulnerable adults. 3. Procedure for the provision of and access to vulnerable adult safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm 4. Procedure for the reporting of concerns regarding the protection of vulnerable adults to an Garda Síochána. 5. Procedure for appointing a person as the first point of contact in relation to any issues relating to this Safeguarding Statement.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an on going process. Open Spectrum CLG is committed to the implementation of this Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep vulnerable adults safe from harm while availing of our service

This Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on July 30th 2025 or as soon as is practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers

Helen Norris has been designated by Open Spectrum CLG as the first point of contact for any issues which arise in relation to this Safeguarding Statement and she can be contacted in complete confidence at

bellsnorris@openspectrum.ie

Signed: Victoria White

Chairperson Open Spectrum CLG Email:

info@openspectrum.ie

