

# Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board

## Adult Safeguarding for MSLETB Staff

### Document Control Sheet

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## Safeguarding Policy Statement for MSLETB Further Education and Training

The national agenda regarding adult safeguarding is rapidly changing and MSLETB is committed to promoting the welfare and safety of adults at risk of abuse.

All adults have the right to be safe and to live a life free from harm. Safeguarding means putting measures in place to promote and protect the human rights of our learners, their health and wellbeing, and empowering them to protect themselves.

Safeguarding relies on individuals and services working together to ensure that adults are treated with dignity and respect and that they are empowered to make decisions about their own lives. As a starting point, everyone must be presumed to have capacity to make their own decisions, recognising that capacity can change over time.

Each adult learners' welfare should be promoted, and they should receive support in an environment where every effort is made to prevent the risk of harm. MSLETB and our staff/volunteers have a responsibility to do everything possible to prevent harm as a result of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

It is known that older people, adults with disability and persons with mental health difficulties may become vulnerable to abuse, even in settings which are intended to be places of safety and support.

The development of this policy is part of the commitment to promoting adult safeguarding in MSLETB, particularly in FET. It seeks to uphold the rights of adults to live full and meaningful lives in safe and supportive environments and to ensure the full expression and promotion of rights and responsibilities.

Safeguarding focuses on the:

- Prevention of abuse
- Identification of abuse or potential for abuse
- Identification and implementation of measures that reduce/eliminate the risk of occurrence or recurrence of abuse.

## MSLETB and FET Commitment to Adult Safeguarding

Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB is committed to implementing policies, procedures and practices which promote adult safeguarding (as developed by ETBI March 2021). We accept and recognise our responsibilities to inform ourselves of the issues that cause harm to adults and to establish and maintain a safe, person-centred environment. We are committed to promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, openness and transparency. We will strive to safeguard those who use our services and will report concerns of abuse in line with best practice and national policy requirements.

A key to successful safeguarding of adults at risk of abuse is an open culture with a genuinely person-centred approach to support, underpinned by a zero-tolerance policy towards abuse and neglect. It is important that we create and nurture an open culture where people can feel safe to raise concerns. The importance of good leadership and modelling of good practice is essential in determining the culture of services.

MSLETB will identify a senior person who is responsible and accountable for the effective functioning of the overall safeguarding process in MSLETB. In addition, MSLETB will have a nominated Safeguarding Coordinator within each FET college/centre/location, with the necessary authority to manage the safeguarding and protection process for individual concerns.

All staff within MSLETB (staff/employees, volunteers, those on training/work placements, contractors (that have access to adult learners), board of management / management committees and other relevant roles/positions as defined by the organisation) have a responsible to adhere to Adult Safeguarding procedures as directed by the organisation.

This Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedure has been developed in line with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Mental Health Commission (MHC) National Standards for Adult Safeguarding 2019, the HSE Final Draft Adult Safeguarding Policy 2019 (expected to be implemented in 2021), the current HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy and Procedures 2014, as well as legislation relevant to adult safeguarding.

Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB has decided to use the definitions of adult at risk, abuse and harm as set out in the Final Draft HSE Adult Safeguarding Policy 2019.