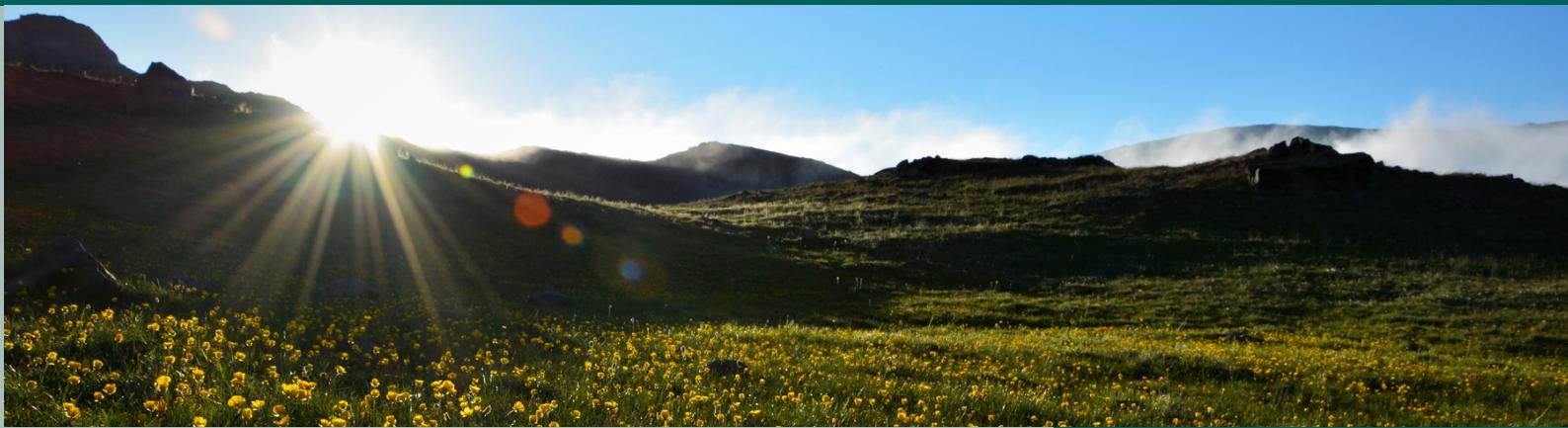


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SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Message from Tim Hanly, General Manager, National Safeguarding Office

Dear Colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the National Safeguarding Office I am delighted to bring you our first Newsletter of 2022.

Our Office recently welcomed the addition of two new team members, Bridget Walsh and Sarah Mahon, who bring considerable experience and knowledge to our team. You can read more about their roles in the Newsletter. This edition contains information on recent seminars with the Decision Support Service and also with the National Federation of Voluntary Sector Providers on safeguarding and restrictive practices. There is also an update information on the ICT project and an exciting user engagement initiative with Stewarts Care.

The coming months are a time of hope and optimism with the commencement of significant provisions of the Assistant Decision Making legislation and much work is ongoing in preparation for this most welcome human rights reform. Unfortunately, the wider world news is gloomy from Ukraine and our thoughts are with the victims of war in such awful circumstances as well as the immense difficulties experienced by fellow health and social care workers. Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for the upcoming Easter holiday time

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WELCOME TO THE TEAM



SARAH MAHON

Sarah Mahon joined the NSO on the 20th December 2021 as a Principal Social Worker. Sarah previously worked as the Head of Social Work and Safeguarding in Stewarts Care, and as Safeguarding Lead in The Rehab Group. Prior to this Sarah worked in the National Dementia Office and was Elder Abuse Dedicated Officer from 2007 until 2015. Previous to these roles Sarah worked in Brú Choimhín CNU, St James's Hospital and Child Protection.

BRIDGET WALSH



Bridget joined the NSO on the 24th of January 2022 as the Business Manager for the office. Bridget is a social care worker and joined the HSE in 2002. Bridget has worked in various settings throughout her career including residential child care, disability services and Mental Health. Bridget will be a key contact for many of you going forward and will be responsible for supporting and coordinating the work of the NSO Office. Bridget is looking forward to contributing to the work of the NSO. We are delighted to have both her and Sarah on board.

WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Restrictive Practice Webinar

On February 1st the National Safeguarding Office and the National Federation of Voluntary Sector Providers hosted a webinar on safeguarding and restrictive practices. There was an excellent discussion from the panel and insightful presentation from Marie Kehoe-O'Sullivan, QI National Disability Specialist on the Guiding Principles Preventing the Need for Restriction.

We would like to thanks the participants for their valuable contributions:

Marie Kehoe O' Sullivan | HSE National Disability Specialist, Quality Improvement

Ruth Connolly | Principal Clinical Psychologist, Muiriosa Foundation

David Tuomey | Principal Social Worker, Western Care

Regina Chambers | Social Work Team Leader, Western Care and Lecturer at GMI

Mick Keating | Regional Manager for designated centres for people with disabilities, HIQA

[**CLICK HERE
TO WATCH
WEBINAR**](#)

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015

CLICK HERE TO
ACCESS
RESOURCES

The HSE National Office of Human Rights and Equality Policy is working are coordinating work within the HSE to prepare for towards commencement of the Act. The following resources are available for staff to prepare for the commencement of the Act.

- Frequently asked questions on the Act
- A short Explainer Video on the Act containing simple core messages on the Act from the voices of staff and people who use our services
- Recordings of webinars on key provisions within the Act, including supporting decision making, advance planning, and the role of advocacy
- A quarterly newsletter providing updates on the Act and the work of the HSE National Office of Human Rights and Equality Policy
- The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 – Personal and Professional Reflections – a collection of essays written from both a personal and professional perspectives highlighting the importance of the Act
- Recording of a short introductory presentation on the Act

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

World Elder Abuse Day takes place every year on June 15th and is a United Nations observed day. It is an opportunity for us all to reflect on the issue of elder abuse and to raise awareness of the problem in our society. For WEAAD this year, our office has picked the theme Rights never get old. There will be a number of events held to mark the day both at a national and local level and people are encouraged to keep an eye on social media for dates, venues and times. If you are planning to hold an event in your service we would be delighted to hear about it and you can email us on safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie with details.

Promotional materials will be distributed nearer the date and additional resource materials will be available from this office at safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie

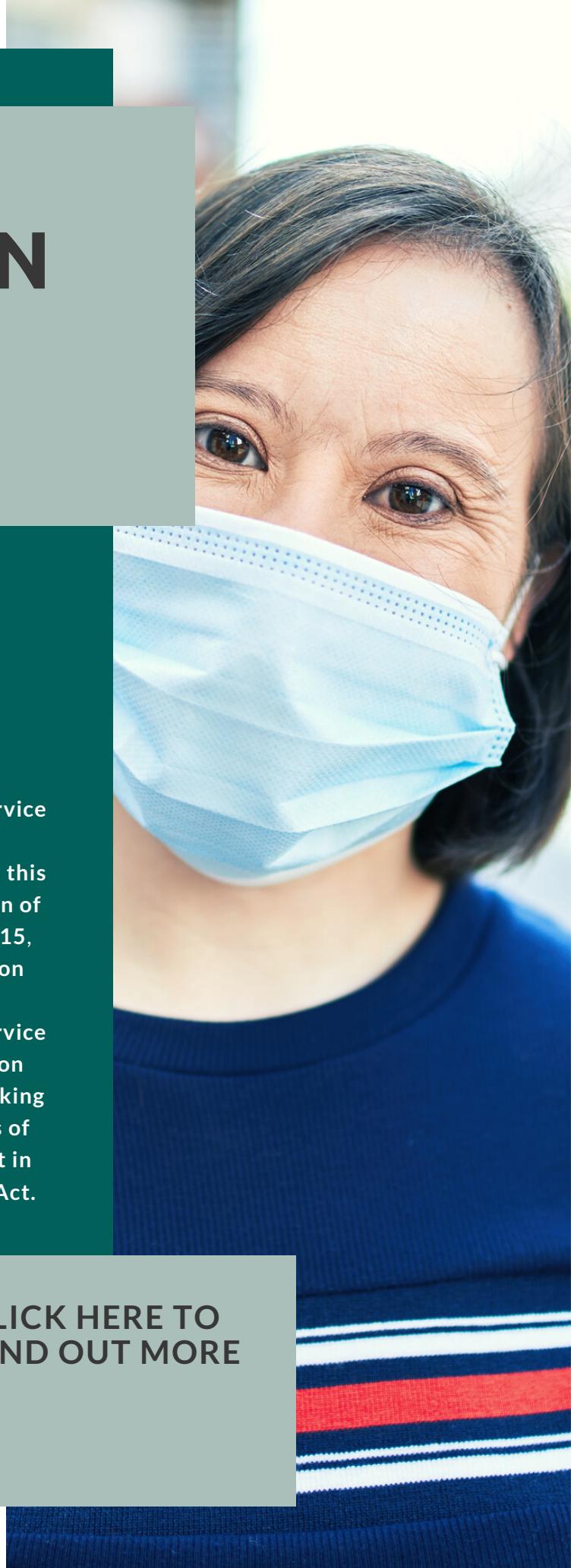
THE DECISION SUPPORT SERVICE

Draft Codes

You will be aware that the Decision Support Service has issued draft codes of practice for public consultation over the past number of months. In this context and in the context of full implementation of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act, 2015, the NSO hosted a webinar event with the Decision Support Service on 7th February.

Áine Flynn, Director of the Decision Support Service briefed the Safeguarding and Protection Teams on the main provisions of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act, 2015 as well as the various types of decision supporters and the structures being put in place to support the full implementation of the Act.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)



IT UPDATE

The Product Evaluation Group who have the task of engaging with the procurement process have completed the second phase of their work and the top three submissions for tender have been provided to the Health Business Service.

In the coming months the National Safeguarding Office will be working with the Safeguarding and Protection Teams in preparing for the implementation of the IT system including the migration of active cases. The system will have benefits and impacts on many levels to all those who participate in the safeguarding process.

The National Safeguarding Office look forward to engaging with the successful vendor in the coming months to commence the project.



DESIGNATED OFFICER UPDATE

To help prepare for our move to the electronic world we are planning an exercise to validate the list of Designated Officers held by the National Safeguarding Office. Bridget Walsh, Business Manager in the NSO will be working with the newly appointed business managers in the Safeguarding and Protection Teams.

Designated Officer training is being delivered on an ongoing basis. We are currently providing this training via a blended approach with a combination of resources on HSELanD, individually assigned deskwork and attendance at an interactive workshop with facilitators and peers. Designated Officer nominations and/or requests for training should be submitted to the National Safeguarding Office safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie



SERVICE USER ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

The NSO, in partnership with Stewarts Care, has begun a service user engagement project. This project will examine how to include the voice of service users in safeguarding processes and plans. We plan to do this in two phases

Phase 1

We conducted a short interview with a service user about their experience with safeguarding processes (e.g. their experience talking to a keyworker and Designated Officer, their understanding of the forms used by the HSE, and their understanding of what steps happen next). With consent, this was videoed and presented to the HSE Quality and Safety Committee. The service user was invited to attend the Quality and Safety Committee meeting on the 15th February, where the video was presented.



Phase 2

A series of focus groups will be held for service users in Stewarts Care over the spring and summer. The focus groups will examine service user's experiences and understanding of safeguarding processes. Arising from this, a service user will be invited to complete their own safeguarding plan (using existing HSE forms-with support from speech and language therapy). A Designated Officer will be asked to complete the same forms for that service user and the two plans will be compared. The NSO will complete a report on the findings from this project, with any recommendations for practice, in the summer.

NSO Supports the Vaccination Programme

By Marguerite Clancy

In early 2021 I responded to a request for redeployment to the Area Vaccination Service to work as Business Manager. Following on from working in Public Health Mid West in the early stages of the pandemic this new opportunity was not to be missed. Six business managers were redeployed from various areas of the health service to take up these roles in Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary. New colleagues, new friendships and new experiences were in abundance in 2021 and what an experience it has been. Hotels lobbies, function rooms and bars were reconfigured and recommissioned. We often had to pinch ourselves with the speed of change around us.

Relocation, relocation, relocation was the order of the day and there is huge credit due to the wider team in adapting with minimal disruption to the evolving demands of the programme. Clinical and non-clinical, the army and volunteers all worked together to achieve the delivery of 500,000 vaccines in the Mid-West. Working predominantly in the West County Hotel in Clare my geographic knowledge of every corner of the county was enhanced daily as we sought to engage with as many people as possible. The public reminisced with us daily on the weddings and dress dances that they had attended in the same venue. People reconnected in the waiting area with smiling eyes in recognition of familiar faces from many moons ago. We smiled as the playlist in the waiting area was modified to reflect the every decreasing age cohort. We were bursting with pride when the young came out in their droves to play their part. There was laughter and tears along with way but the abiding memory is of camaraderie.

Now back in adult safeguarding I look back with pride on the work and thankful for the experience.

UL Hospital Group and HSE Mid West Community Healthcare mark the administration of 500,000 Covid-19 Vaccines

