

RCNI Best Practice Standard

External Relationships Standard

While every care is taken to ensure that this standard accurately reflects current legal obligations, please note that it does not and cannot guarantee to any Centre, and/or any Centre staff member or volunteer, immunity from suit and/or legal liability in civil courts, criminal courts or other tribunal.

1. INTRODUCTION

Many agencies, organisations, and government departments have expertise and resources to be used towards ending sexual violence and supporting survivors in their healing processes. In order to further our vision, mission and goals our Centre commits to developing and using external relationships with other entities. Not only will these relationships and links facilitate the social change necessary to end sexual violence but they will also further our ability to advocate for individual survivors.

This standard articulates the relationships and links that Centre staff and volunteers need to nurture with outside agencies and departments and the specific reasons that those relationships and links are vital to providing survivor-centred and trauma-based services for survivors, institutional advocacy and the instigation of real and profound social change. It is the responsibility of the Centre Manager to ensure that these links are maintained.

2. REQUIREMENTS

- In addition to relationships with our funders, our Centre will seek out, develop and maintain active links and relationships with local agencies, organisations and government departments including, at a minimum, the following: (a) Gardaí/PSNI, (b) HSE Community Health teams, (c) GPs, (d) Hospitals, (e) Other violence against women services, (f) Other sexual violence services, (g) Organisations working with and representing marginalised/underserved communities, and (h) Private counsellors, therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists.

The Advocacy Standard, Therapeutic Referral Standard and Media Relations Standards all provide further details about external relationships and their benefits

- These links and relationships are necessary for, and will facilitate our ability to provide direct services, as well as instigating real and profound social change. Specifically, well developed links and relationships will:
 - Increase our knowledge of other service availability
 - Improve our ability to advocate for individual survivors
 - Improve the services that survivors currently receive from other organisations and government departments
 - Improve the services that survivors will receive in the future from other organisation and government departments
 - Increase our ability to engage in appropriate and effective outreach
 - Improve our ability to make and receive appropriate therapeutic referrals
 - Increase other organisations and government department's knowledge of our services including:

RCNI External Relationships Standard

- Advocacy – accompaniment and other forms
- Crisis intervention
- Helpline
- Counselling
- Facilitate our ability to engage with regional and national planning
- Increase the effectiveness of our social change activities including:
 - Awareness raising
 - Education
 - Media (see media relations standard)
 - Lobbying for legal change
 - Lobbying for social change

Signed _____ Date _____ Review Date _____