

*“Existing to break the silence of the sexual abuse, rape and sexual exploitation of boys and men in order to empower those affected to defeat the legacy of abuse to move towards positive futures”*



# The Safe Room

## Membership Terms of Reference (v012017)

The Safe Room is a peer-led/facilitated group for male survivors of sexual abuse, rape and sexual exploitation.

Whilst the group is semi-facilitated by individuals that are directly employed, contracted or volunteer for the organisation, whilst in the group they are ‘peers’ and their purpose is to engage in the group in an equitable way whilst also understanding that they have a small responsibility for the administration of the space.

Within this document, Safe Room attendees will be referred to as ‘members’; the individual(s) identified as offering administration to the space are referred to as ‘peer-facilitators’ and the Safe Room referred to as the ‘group’.

### **1.0 Confidentiality**

- 1.1 Each member of the group has a responsibility to keep confidentiality on behalf of the group and its members.
- 1.2 All members agree to refrain from discussing or identifying the membership outside of the group to third parties.
- 1.3 All members have the right to remain anonymous outside of the group.
- 1.4 Discussions that begin and take place in the group should be ended in the group.
- 1.5 In the interests of concerns about safety of group members (individually or collectively) or others, members may request that the facilitator uses his administration role to break confidentiality and inform the organisation of safeguarding concern’s, to be dealt with in line with the organisation’s policies.

### **2.0 Safety**

- 2.1 All members agree to inform the organisation, via the facilitator, of any concerns regarding the safety of group members (individually or collectively) or others.
- 2.2 Members have a collective responsibility for holding and containing the safety of the group.
- 2.3 All members agree to comply with the organisation’s zero tolerance to physical violence (actual or perceived) and threats of physical violence/intimidation. It is the organisations policy to report any threats of intimidation or violence within the group to the police or other relevant authorities.
- 2.4 Any male survivor is welcome, regardless of religion, socio-economic class, substance using history, HIV/HEP C status, sexuality, race, ethnicity, marital status or \*offending history. Oppressive practices and attitudes will not be tolerated (\*except those that have a conviction for sexual offences)
- 2.5 No member will be admitted into the group if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs and will be asked to leave immediately.

### **3.0 Conduct**

- 3.1 All members agree to keep to time and will endeavour to let the organisation or another group member know if they are to be absent or late.
- 3.2 All members agree to remain silent and refrain from questioning or engaging in conversation whilst other members 'check in' or 'check out'.
- 3.3 Every member has the right to 'check in' or 'check out' and be heard.
- 3.4 All group members have the right to be listened to and the right to reply.
- 3.5 Group members agree to not engage in side conversations whilst someone else is speaking.
- 3.6 Each member has the right to be respected in their opinion, regardless of whether another agrees or not.
- 3.7 All group members will turn all mobile phones and pagers onto silent or vibrate at the beginning of the group to try and maintain the least amount of disturbance.
- 3.8 Each member will be respectful of another's right to participate or disengage.
- 3.9 All members will respect another's personal space and physical boundaries and each member has the right to refuse any physical contact without prejudice.

### **4.0 General**

- 4.1 The group is only active between set times on set dates.
- 4.2 Members must contact the organisation before 6:00pm on the evening of the session if they are unable to attend.
- 4.3 Any member that doesn't not attend for three consecutive sessions, without prior agreement, must re-join at an appropriate official 'opening'. This ensures all members can retain a sense of safety.
- 4.4 The organisation is not responsible for facilitating or mediating between membership contact with other members outside of the group.
- 4.5 All members will register their attendance at the beginning of each group session. This data will be anonymised and used to demonstrate service delivery need.
- 4.6 Members have the right to agree or decline to participate in providing the organisation with formal or informal feedback on the effectiveness of the group.
- 4.7 The organisation may, at times, need to change group sessions due to unforeseen circumstances. However, the organisation intends to give advanced prior notice to any change in group schedule.
- 4.8 In the interests of the positive and healing experience of the whole group, members may be asked to leave, temporarily or in extreme circumstances permanently, if the Terms of Reference are not adhered to.

### **5.0 Complaints**

- 5.1 Members have the right to make a complaint about group or facilitators using the organisation's complaints procedure.
- 5.2 The organisation requests that all complaints are presented in writing to the Head of Operations.