



# MODEL SAFEGUARDING POLICY & PROCEDURES

VERSION 1.0

**Best Practice Guidance for Baptist Union of Great Britain Churches**

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## INTRODUCTION

This guide to safeguarding policy, procedures and best practice has been put together by the Baptist Union of Great Britain to offer a template and a set of helpful guidance notes for churches as they develop or review the safeguarding framework for their church. It is divided into four sections:

- 1) **Safeguarding Policy Statement** – this is a template policy that you can use as a starting point for your own church's policy
- 2) **Safeguarding Procedures** – these sections provide a clear outline of the reporting procedures needed in every local Baptist church
- 3) **Best Practice Guidelines** – these guidelines provide detailed information on key areas of safeguarding in the life of a Baptist church
- 4) **Useful Contacts**

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purpose of this guide, the term 'child' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service):

*'Any adult aged 18 or over who due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation'.*

## SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE BARN BIDFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

#### OUR MISSION

“Meeting with God ... Walking with God ...Serving God.”

**MEETING WITH GOD** centres on our Sunday services and is about the personal revelation, spiritual refreshing and recharging we need to empower our Christian life.

**WALKING WITH GOD** is reflected in our relationship with Him through the week: learning, growing, connecting.

**SERVING GOD** and bearing fruit are our ultimate purpose: our commission, our compassion, our commitment.

*All this is centred on our ongoing relationship with the Lord.*

MEETING WITH GOD is personal and intimate, and takes place as we encounter God’s presence and power together.

WALKING WITH GOD is both personal and corporate as we journey with the Lord in devotion, in prayer and in connect groups.

SERVING GOD is the outworking of all that He has deposited in us as we take His love to the world in diverse ways.

MEETING WITH GOD takes us deeper in our experience.

WALKING WITH GOD makes us stronger in our relationship(s).

SERVING GOD opens us wider in our influence.

#### OUR VISION

Mission asks, what are you called to do as God sends you out? Vision asks what do you see?

Not so much what can you see in front of you right now, but as you look to the future, dream God-dreams and picture what could be, if God be in it, what do you see? So, our vision statement paints a picture of what our church could look like, one day, if God the Father be placed right at the centre, if the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ be preached boldly and uncompromisingly, and if His Spirit be given the freedom to stir, inspire, transform and revive.

**So, the church we see looks like this:**

**The church we see is ALIVE:** vibrant, welcoming, joyful and fun; our services are bright, positive and celebratory.

**The church we see is SPIRIT-FILLED:** passionate in worship, where His presence is tangible, where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in operation, where those in need receive personal ministry, and where services are not religious rituals but encounters with God.

**The church we see is GROWING:** attractive to seekers, welcoming to guests, reaching out to the ostracised and the hurting, has multiple arms extending into our communities, and then challenges people to respond to the gospel such that confessions of salvation, baptisms and changed lives are the norm.

**The church we see is TRANSFORMING:** where broken lives, relationships and families are restored; where dead religion is replaced by dynamic relationship, unbelief by faith, hopelessness by joy, where sick people become healthy, the broken become whole, and new Christians become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

**The church we see is a FAMILY:** we started as a family and will continue to be a family. Our program will include large, weekly, communal meetings, but also small gatherings in people’s homes, where authentic friendship, honesty, trust, mutual support and accountability are cultivated.

**The church we see is EQUIPPING:** maturing people in their faith, encouraging them in their gifts, developing them in their leadership, and releasing them to be everything they can be for the Lord.

In fulfilling this mission and vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

### **Our safeguarding responsibilities**

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practices**

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

## Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

### **LOUISE PERRY, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

She will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Email address [safeguarding@thebarn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thebarn.org.uk)

### **ADAM PERRY, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

He will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Email address [safeguarding@thebarn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thebarn.org.uk)

### **SIMON MEEK, Safeguarding Trustee**

He will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Phone number 07954 417 754 Email address [simon@thebarn.org.uk](mailto:simon@thebarn.org.uk)

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

*Further definitions of these roles can be found in the BUGB publications 'Safe to Grow' (2011) & 'Safe to Belong' (2015).*

## Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

## SECTION 2 - SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

### INTRODUCTION

Your church's safeguarding procedures will set out how your safeguarding policy is implemented in all the services, groups and meetings that are part of the life of your church.

Each trustee, church leader and worker (paid or voluntary) needs to be familiar with these procedures, and we strongly recommend that those in leadership roles attend both Level 2 and Level 3 BUGB Excellence in Safeguarding training (delivered through your local Baptist association team) to ensure that they have the knowledge and confidence needed to deal with safeguarding issues as they arise.

Over the following pages you will find clear, specific information on how to recognise and report abuse and how to respond to concerns raised within your church. It is vitally important that these procedures are well known and that all those working with children and/or adults at risk in your church have the information and training needed to work with these procedures.

All church workers (paid and voluntary) who work with children and/or adults at risk should attend the BUGB Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding training before they are able to work without supervision. The Baptist Union of Great Britain also publishes an '*Introduction to Safeguarding*' guide for new workers (paid and voluntary) that is available free of charge from our website.

## 2.1 PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNISING, RESPONDING TO AND REPORTING ABUSE

### 2.1.1 What to do if Abuse is Suspected or Disclosed

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or adult at risk. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child or adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and adults at risk may be abused in a range of settings, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. There are many ways in which people suffer abuse. For more information, please see Appendix 1.

Everyone has his or her part to play in helping to safeguard children and adults at risk within the life of the church:

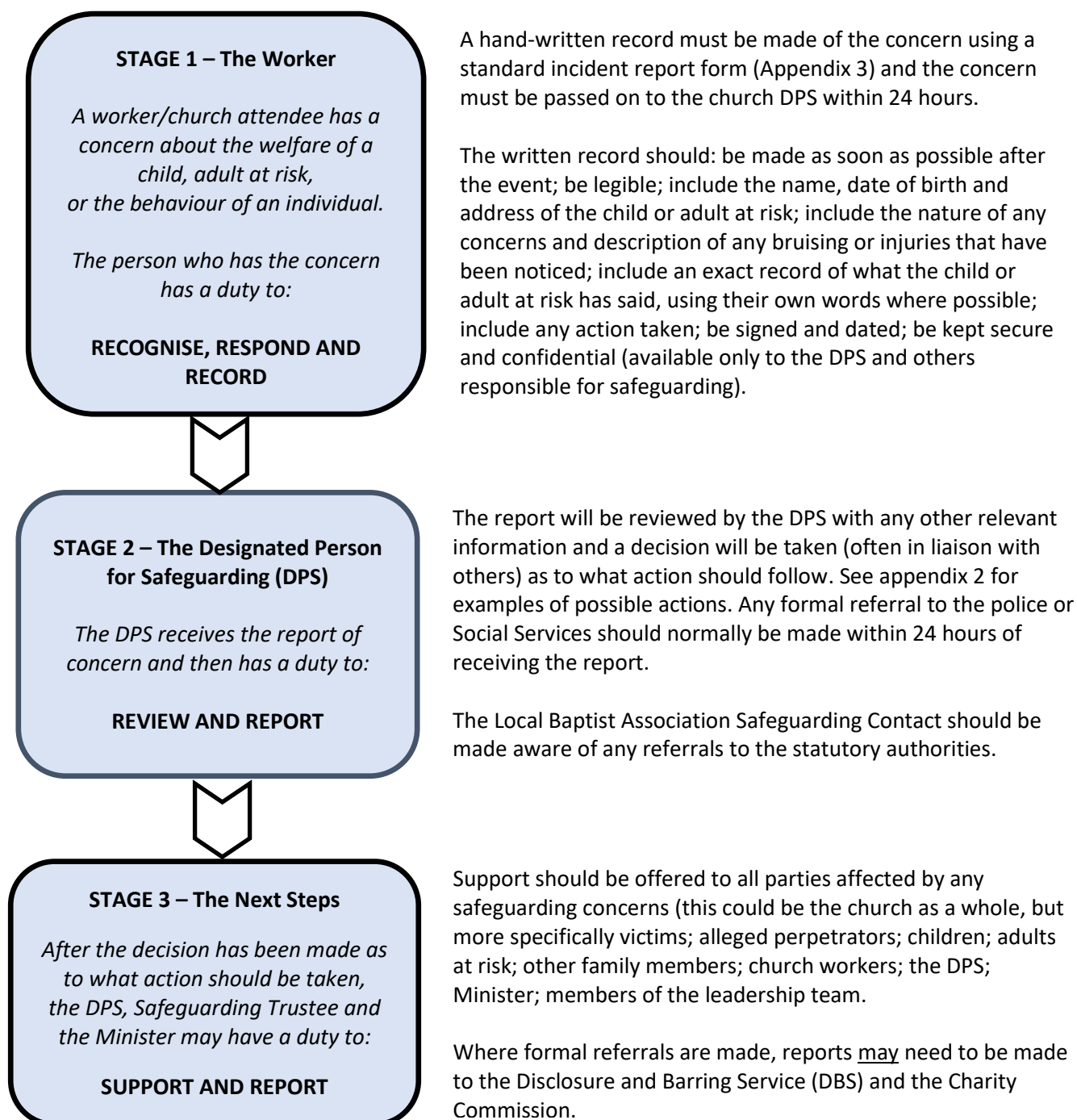
- If the behaviour of a child or adult at risk gives any cause for concern
- If an allegation is made in any context about a child or adult at risk being harmed
- If the behaviour of any individual towards children or adults at risk causes concern

WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listen to and acknowledge what is being said.</li><li>• Try to be reassuring &amp; remain calm.</li><li>• Explain clearly what you will do and what will happen next.</li><li>• Try to give them a timescale for when and how you / the DPS will contact them again.</li><li>• Take action – don't ignore the situation.</li><li>• Be supportive.</li><li>• Tell them that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>They were right to tell you;</li><li>You are taking what they have said seriously;</li><li>It was not their fault;</li><li>That you would like to pass this information on to the appropriate people, with their permission;</li></ul></li><li>• Be open and honest.</li><li>• Give contact details for them to report any further details or ask any questions that may arise.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not promise confidentiality.</li><li>• Do not show shock, alarm, disbelief or disapproval.</li><li>• Do not minimise what is being said.</li><li>• Do not ask probing or leading questions, or push for more information.</li><li>• Do not offer false reassurance.</li><li>• Do not delay in contacting the DPS.</li><li>• Do not contact the alleged abuser.</li><li>• Do not investigate the incident any further.</li><li>• Never leave a child or adult at risk waiting to hear from someone without any idea of when or where that may be.</li><li>• Do not pass on information to those who don't need to know; not even for prayer ministry.</li></ul>



### 2.1.2 Responding to Concerns

When there are concerns that a child, young person or adult is being abused, the following process must be followed. More detailed information can be found in Appendix 2.



If the DPS is not available, or is implicated in the situation, any reports or concerns should be passed to another member of the church Safeguarding Team.

**If you think that anyone is in imminent danger of harm, a report should be made immediately to the police by calling 999.**

### 2.1.3 Responding to Concerns Raised about Adults at Risk

When a concern is raised about an adult it should be treated in the same way as a concern about a child ie the church worker (paid or voluntary) should:

- 1) **Recognise** that abuse may be taking place
- 2) **Respond** to the concern
- 3) **Record** all the information they have received
- 4) **Report** the concern to the DPS who may, in turn, report it to the statutory authorities

It is not your role to decide whether someone has mental capacity, and is therefore able to make decisions that impact on their safety and well-being. Decisions on mental capacity are best made by professionals with the relevant background information to hand. Always share your concerns with the DPS even if you do not have the consent of the adult to do so – in this instance, make sure the DPS knows that the person concerned has not given consent for the information to be passed on.

The Care Act 2014 provides helpful guidance on these situations:

*“If the adult has the mental capacity to make informed decisions about their safety and they do not want any action to be taken, this does not preclude the sharing of information with relevant professional colleagues. This is to enable professionals to assess the risk of harm and to be confident that the adult is not being unduly influenced, coerced or intimidated and is aware of all the options. This will also enable professionals to check the safety and validity of decisions made. It is good practice to inform the adult that this action is being taken unless doing so would increase the risk of harm”.*

The DPS will consider all the information to hand and decide whether it is appropriate for the information to be reported to the statutory authorities (see appendix 2 for further information). If there are any concerns about an adult's mental capacity, the DPS will contact the Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Team for advice.

### 2.1.4 Allegations Against Workers

If you see another worker acting in ways which concern you or might be misconstrued, speak to the DPS about your concerns as soon as you can. This includes the actions or behaviours of those in leadership positions in the church.

Church workers should encourage an atmosphere of mutual accountability, holding each other to the highest standards of safeguarding practice. The following procedure should be followed:

- 1) When an allegation of abuse has been made do not approach the alleged perpetrator about it
- 2) Follow the usual safeguarding procedure: **Recognise, Respond, Record, Report**
- 3) Once the allegation has been reported to the DPS they can liaise with the relevant statutory authority
- 4) Whilst waiting for an outcome from the statutory authorities, the worker about whom concerns have been raised will be supervised as closely as possible, without raising suspicion
- 5) Once the statutory authorities are involved, the church will follow their advice with regard to the next steps to take (for example, suspension of worker, putting a contract in place)
- 6) A written record of all discussions with statutory authorities or other parties should be maintained by the DPS and stored securely and confidentially, where only those directly involved in safeguarding (DPS, Safeguarding Trustee, Minister) can access them.
- 7) No information about the allegation will be shared with people in the church other than those directly involved in safeguarding; not even for prayer purposes.

The suspension of a worker following an allegation is, by definition, a neutral act. Our priority as a church is to protect children and adults at risk from possible further abuse or from being influenced in any way by the alleged perpetrator.

It may be necessary, for the sake of the child / adult at risk or to satisfy the needs of an investigation, for the alleged perpetrator to worship elsewhere. In such cases the new church DPS will be informed of the reasons for this happening.

### **When concerns are expressed about the Minister**

Any safeguarding concerns involving a Minister should always be reported immediately to the local Baptist Association Safeguarding Contact in addition to following the church's usual procedures. Do not tell the Minister that a concern has been raised about them.

### **When concerns are expressed about the church DPS / Safeguarding Trustee**

Any safeguarding concerns involving the DPS or Safeguarding Trustee should be raised with the Minister. Do not tell the DPS / Safeguarding Trustee that a concern has been raised about them.

## **2.1.5 Abuse of Trust**

Relationships between children and adults at risk and their church workers can be described as 'relationships of trust'. The worker is someone in whom the child or adult at risk has placed a degree of trust. This may be because the worker has an educational role, is a provider of activities, or is even a significant adult friend. It is not acceptable for a church worker to form a romantic relationship with a child or adult at risk with whom they have a relationship of trust.

While by no means restricted to young leaders, those who are in their early adult years will need to be particularly aware of the need not to abuse their position of trust in their relationships with other young people who are not much younger than themselves.

## **2.1.6 Allegations Made Against Children and Adults at Risk**

Children and young people are by nature curious about the opposite sex. However, where a child is in a position of power, has responsibility over another child (as in a babysitting arrangement) and abuses that trust through some sexual activity, then this is abusive. Where one child introduces another child to age-inappropriate sexual activity or forces themselves onto a child, this is abusive. Such situations will be taken as seriously as if an adult were involved, because the effects on the child victim can be as great.

When such an instance occurs, they are investigated by the statutory authorities in the same way as if an adult were involved, though it is likely that the perpetrator would also be regarded as a victim in their own right, as they may have also been abused. It cannot be assumed that young people will grow out of this type of behaviour, as most adult sex offenders started abusing in their teens or even younger.

Allegations against adults at risk will be investigated by the statutory authorities. If the alleged perpetrator is unable to understand the significance of questions put to them or their replies, they can access support from an 'appropriate' adult whilst they are being questioned. This role can be filled by a range of people, such as a family member, carer, social worker, etc. In court, adults at risk may be allowed to be assisted by an intermediary or give evidence through a live link.

When an allegation is made against a child or adult at risk the following procedure should be followed:

- 1) Do not approach the person about whom the allegation has been made or their parents / carers
- 2) Follow the church's safeguarding procedure: **Recognise, Respond, Record, Report**
- 3) Seek advice from the DPS, who will speak to the police or social services about when to inform a parent. The DPS will also seek advice about what steps need to be taken to ensure the needs of both the victim and alleged perpetrator are met; this may include placing the child or adult at risk on a Safeguarding Contract or equivalent (see section 3.4: Safer Community / Working with Alleged or Known Offenders)
- 4) Make sure there is pastoral support in place for the child or adult at risk throughout the process involved.

### 2.1.7 Pastoral Care

#### **Following an allegation / suspicion**

When an allegation/suspicion arises in the church, a period of investigation will follow, which will be stressful for all involved. The church will ensure that one person is responsible for dealing with the authorities, another offers support to the victim/s and their family, and another gives pastoral care to the alleged perpetrator, without compromising the alleged victims or their families. It may be necessary to appoint other people to support the families involved.

Where a statutory investigation is under way, this support will be provided with the knowledge of the statutory authority involved.

Where the perpetrator accepts some responsibility, they will be encouraged to seek specialised interventions/treatment to reduce the risk of re-offending. This may only be appropriate once the investigation and legal processes have been completed.

#### **Supporting those who have experienced abuse**

As a church, we are committed to caring for those who have experienced abuse and refer to the Baptist Union of Great Britain **Supporting Those who have Experienced Abuse** guide to ensure that we adhere to a model of best practice.

We recognise it is important that those who have experienced abuse:

- Are accepted for who they are, without being made to forgive or being put into a position of feeling guilty and responsible for what happened to them.
- Know that God loves them unconditionally, and that nothing can or will change this truth.
- Can be confident that those in the church community who know about the abuse are with them on their journey – no matter how long or difficult that journey may be.

It may be necessary to signpost individuals to specialist support. The DPS has a list of relevant local information and contacts, ready for anyone who may need it.

## 2.2 SAFER RECRUITMENT

As a church, we are committed to safer recruitment practices. When recruiting both paid and volunteer church workers, the following process will be applied:

- 1) We will develop a clear role profile, person specification and application form;
- 2) When advertising a role which involves working with children or adults at risk we will make it clear that any appointment is subject to a DBS check;
- 3) All applicants will be asked to complete an application form and include the names of two referees;
- 4) Shortlisting of applicants will be carried out by at least two people, including the line manager or group leader directly overseeing the role being recruited for;
- 5) Interviews will be carried out by at least two people, including the line manager or group leader;
- 6) References, a Self Disclosure Form and an enhanced DBS check must be completed satisfactorily before the appointed person starts in their role.

Note: Under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, it is an offence for anyone disqualified from working with children or adults at risk to knowingly apply, accept or offer to work with children or adults at risk. It is also a criminal offence to knowingly offer work with children or adults at risk to an individual who is so disqualified or to knowingly allow such an individual to continue to work with children or adults at risk.

### **Additional checks for paid workers**

In addition to the above checks which should be completed for both paid and volunteer church workers, an applicant's UK residency status and/ or right to work in the UK will be checked when recruiting for a paid role.

### **References**

Formal written references may be requested, ideally in the form of at least one professional and one personal reference

### **Appointment and Supervision**

The church's safeguarding policy and procedures will be discussed with the applicant and they will be required to sign their agreement to adhere to them. All workers will have a role description and clear lines of accountability to a leader and the leadership team.

Paid workers will also have an assigned supervisor whom they will meet with regularly to discuss work and address any issues or areas of concern. There will be a probationary period of six months in the role before any paid appointment is confirmed.

There will also be regular team meetings to review procedures, share concerns and identify other matters that may need clarification and guidance.

### **Training**

It is important that all workers understand our church's agreed safeguarding procedures and attend BUGB Excellence in Safeguarding training at least once every four years. Where a worker is successfully recruited but has not yet been able to attend the training, they should be given a copy of the Baptist Union of Great Britain's **Gateway to Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding** booklet and asked to complete the relevant sections. Additional specialist training will also be arranged where needed, for example, in First Aid.

### **Young leaders under 18 years of age**

In law, young leaders under the age of 18 are children and cannot be treated as adult members of a team. Training and mentoring will be given to ensure that they are helped to develop and hone their skills, attitudes and experience. Young leaders must always be closely supervised by an adult leader and never given sole responsibility for a group of children. When considering ratios of staff to children, young leaders

need to be counted as children, not leaders. The safeguarding procedures apply to a young leader just as they do to any other person. Parent / carer permission needs to be sought for young leaders just as you would for any other person under 18 years of age.

## 2.3 SAFER BEHAVIOUR

The church has a code of behaviour for all those working with children and/or adults at risk so that everyone is shown the respect that is due to them:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Use age and ability appropriate language and tone of voice. Be aware of your body language and the effect you are having on the child or adult at risk.
- Listen well to everyone. Be careful not to assume you know what a child or adult at risk is thinking or feeling. Listen to what is being spoken and how it is said. At the same time, observe the individual's body language to better understand what is being said.
- Be aware of any physical contact you may have with a child or adult at risk and record it when necessary. For instance, if you need to stop a fight, administer First Aid, give a hug to someone in distress, or protect yourself or others from danger.
- Do not make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child or adult at risk, even in 'fun'.
- Do not scapegoat, belittle, ridicule or reject a child or adult at risk.
- Keep a record of any significant incidents or concerns on a Safeguarding Incident Form (see Appendix 3). Enter the names of all those present and anything of note which you observe, e.g. details of any fights broken up by the workers, allegations made, etc. All workers who witnessed the incident, overheard it or responded in any way should record the details and sign and date the form.

Specific considerations when working with children:

- Do not invade the privacy of children when they are using the toilet or showering
- The level of assistance with personal care (eg. toileting) must be appropriate and related to the age of the child, whilst also accepting that some children have special needs.
- Avoid rough games involving physical contact between a worker and a child
- Avoid sexually provocative games
- When it is necessary to discipline children, this should be done without using physical punishment. There may, however, on the rare occasion be circumstances where a child needs to be restrained in order to protect them or a third person.
- Only invite children and young people to your home or on trips in groups and always make sure that another worker is present.
- Notify the DPS of any children's trips which take place in the name of the church. Parental permission must always be sought.
- Do not give lifts to children or young people on your own. Ensure that if transporting children as part of your church role, you have the correct insurance cover in place as well as parental permission.
- No person under 18 years of age should be left in sole charge of any children of any age. Nor should children or young people attending a group be left alone at any time.

No one should normally be left working alone with children, young people or adults at risk, but should instead work as part of a team. If there are insufficient leaders for groups:

- Internal doors should be left open.
- At least two people should be present before external doors are opened for an event.
- Consider whether you could combine groups together or rearrange planned activities.

- Reconsider whether you can run the group safely, carrying out a Risk Assessment to record your findings.

If workers do find themselves on their own with children or adults at risk, they should:

- Assess the risk of sending the child or adult at risk home.
- Phone another team member and let them know the situation.
- Train additional leaders as soon as possible.

If a child or adult at risk wants to talk on a one-to-one basis you should make sure that:

- You try to hold the conversation in a corner of a room where other people are present.
- You leave the door open if you are in a room on your own.
- Another team member knows where you are.

Consideration should be given to how many workers should be involved with the group and whether they should be male or female workers, or both. See section 3.11 for recommended ratios. The only adults allowed to participate in children's and adult at risk activities are those safely appointed and appropriately trained. The leader of the activity should be aware of any other adults who are in the building whilst the activity is running.

## SECTION 3 - BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Please refer to separate document,  
[tb Safeguarding Part 2 of 2 Best Practice Guidelines.docx](#)



## SECTION 4 - USEFUL CONTACTS

### **Police**

Contact 101, or 999 in an emergency

### **Local Baptist Association Safeguarding Contact**

*Keith Baldwin*

07903 045670

[keith@baptist-heartofengland.org](mailto:keith@baptist-heartofengland.org)

[safeguarding@baptist-heartofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@baptist-heartofengland.org)

### **Children's Social Services**

Front Door

01926 414144

[www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

### **Adult Social Services**

Warwickshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

MASH Office, Saltisford Building 3, Ansell Way, Warwick, CV34 4UL

01926 414144, 01926 886922 (Out of hours) or 999 (Emergency / immediate risk)

### **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**

[lado@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:lado@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX 1 - DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

### Understanding, Recognising and Responding to Abuse

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or adult at risk. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child or adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and adults at risk may be abused in a family, or in an institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or a child or children. There are many different ways in which people suffer abuse. The list below is, sadly, not exhaustive.

Type of abuse	Child	Adult at risk
<i>Physical</i>	Actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury to a child.	To inflict pain, physical injury or suffering to an adult at risk.
<i>Emotional</i>	The persistent, emotional, ill treatment of a child that affects their emotional and behavioural development. It may involve conveying to the child that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or that they are given responsibilities beyond their years.	The use of threats, fear or power gained by another adult's position, to invalidate the person's independent wishes. Such behaviour can create very real emotional and psychological distress. All forms of abuse have an emotional component.
<i>Sexual</i>	Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This includes non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.	Any non-consenting sexual act or behaviour.  No one should enter into a sexual relationship with someone for whom they have pastoral responsibility or hold a position of trust.
<i>Neglect</i>	Where adults fail to care for children and protect them from danger, seriously impairing health and development.	A person's wellbeing is impaired and their care needs are not met. Neglect can be deliberate or can occur as a result of not understanding what someone's needs are.
<i>Type of Abuse</i>	<b>Additional Definitions</b>	
<i>Financial</i>	The inappropriate use, misappropriation, embezzlement or theft of money, property or possessions.	
<i>Spiritual</i>	The inappropriate use of religious belief or practice; coercion and control of one individual by another in a spiritual context; the abuse of trust by someone in a position of spiritual authority (e.g. minister). The person experiences spiritual abuse as a deeply emotional personal attack.	
<i>Discrimination</i>	The inappropriate treatment of a person because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality or disability.	

<i>Institutional</i>	The mistreatment or abuse of a person by a regime or individuals within an institution. It can occur through repeated acts of poor or inadequate care and neglect, or poor professional practice or ill-treatment. The church as an institution is not exempt from perpetrating institutional abuse.
<i>Domestic Abuse</i>	Domestic abuse is any threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship, or between family members. It can affect anybody regardless of their age, gender, sexuality or social status. Domestic abuse can be physical, sexual or psychological, and whatever form it takes, it is rarely a one-off incident. Usually there is a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour where an abuser seeks to exert power over their family member or partner.
<i>Cyber Abuse</i>	The use of information technology (email, mobile phones, websites, social media, instant messaging, chatrooms, etc.) to repeatedly harm or harass other people in a deliberate manner.
<i>Self-harm</i>	Self-Harm is the intentional damage or injury to a person's own body. It is used as a way of coping with or expressing overwhelming emotional distress. An individual may also be neglecting themselves, which can result in harm to themselves.
<i>Mate crime</i>	'Mate crime' is when people (particularly those with learning disabilities) are befriended by members of the community, who go on to exploit and take advantage of them.
<i>Modern Slavery</i>	Modern slavery is the practice of treating people as property; it includes bonded labour, child labour, sex slavery and trafficking. It is illegal in every country of the world.
<i>Human Trafficking</i>	Human trafficking is when people are bought and sold for financial gain and/or abuse. Men, women and children can be trafficked, both within their own countries and over international borders. The traffickers will trick, coerce, lure or force these vulnerable individuals into sexual exploitation, forced labour, street crime, domestic servitude or even the sale of organs and human sacrifice.

<i>Radicalisation</i>	The radicalisation of individuals is the process by which people come to support any form of extremism and, in some cases, join terrorist groups. Some individuals are more vulnerable to the risk of being groomed into terrorism than others.
<i>Honour / Forced Marriage</i>	An honour marriage / forced marriage is when one or both of the spouses do not, or cannot, consent to the marriage. There may be physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure exerted in order to make the marriage go ahead. The motivation may include the desire to control unwanted behaviour or sexuality.
<i>Female Genital Mutilation</i>	Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). FGM is a cultural practice common around the world and is largely performed on girls aged between 10 and 18. Performing acts of FGM is illegal in the UK as is arranging for a child to travel abroad for FGM to be carried out.
<i>Historic Abuse</i>	Historic abuse is the term used to describe disclosures of abuse that were perpetrated in the past. Many people who have experienced abuse don't tell anyone what happened until years later, with around one third of people abused in childhood waiting until adulthood before they share their experience.

Whilst it is not possible to be prescriptive about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, the following list sets out some of the indicators which might be suggestive of abuse:

- unexplained injuries on areas of the body not usually prone to such injuries
- an injury that has not been treated/received medical attention
- an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- a child or adult at risk discloses behaviour that is harmful to them
- unexplained changes in behaviour or mood (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden bursts of temper)
- inappropriate sexual awareness in children
- signs of neglect, such as under-nourished, untreated illnesses, inadequate care.

**It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more indicators is not in itself proof that abuse is actually taking place. It is also important to remember that there might be other reasons why most of the above are occurring**

## APPENDIX 2 – DETAILED GUIDANCE ON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### STAGE 1 – THE WORKER

The duty of the person who receives information or who has a concern about the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk is to **RECOGNISE** the concerns, make a **RECORD** in writing and **RESPOND** by passing on their concerns to the DPS. If he/she is not contactable, or they are implicated in the situation, another member of the church Safeguarding Team should be contacted instead.

Concerns should be passed on to the DPS within 24 hours of the concern being raised. If anyone is considered to be in imminent danger of harm, a report should be made immediately to the police by calling 999. If such a report is made without reference to the DPS, they should be informed as soon as possible afterwards.

A written record using the standard incident report form should be made as soon as possible after a child or adult at risk tells you about harmful behaviour, or an incident takes place that gives cause for concern.

#### The record should:

- be hand-written as soon as possible after the event
- be legible and state the facts accurately (when hand-written notes are typed up later the original hand-written notes should be retained)
- include the child or adult at risk's name, address, date of birth (or age if the date of birth is not known)
- include the nature of the concerns/allegation/disclosure
- include a description of any bruising or other injuries that you may have noticed
- include an exact record of what the child or adult at risk has said, using their own words where possible
- include what was said by the person to whom the concerns were reported
- include any action taken as a result of the concerns
- be signed and dated
- be kept secure and confidential and made available only to the church Safeguarding Team (including the church minister), representatives of any statutory authorities involved and the local Baptist association.

If concerns arise in the context of children's or adult at risk work, the worker who has the concern may in the first instance wish to talk it through with their group leader, where appropriate. However, such conversations should not delay concerns being passed on to the DPS. It should be clear that the duty remains with the worker to record and pass on their concerns to the DPS.

If an issue concerns an adult at risk who does not give permission to pass on the information to anyone else, the worker should explain that they will need to speak with the DPS, who will have greater expertise in dealing with the issue at hand.

If a concern is brought to the attention of a group leader by one of the workers, the leader should remind the worker of their duty to record and report, and will also themselves have a duty to pass on the concern to the DPS.

## **STAGE 2 – THE DESIGNATED PERSON FOR SAFEGUARDING (DPS)**

The duty of the DPS on receiving a report is to REVIEW the concern that they have received and REPORT the concern on to the appropriate people, where necessary.

### **The duty to REVIEW**

In reviewing the report that is received, the DPS:

- should take into account their level of experience and expertise in assessing risk to children or adults at risk.
- must take into account any other reports that have been received concerning the same individual or family.
- may speak with others in the church where appropriate (including the Minister and church Safeguarding Team, unless allegations involve them) who may have relevant information and knowledge that would impact on any decision being made. Such conversations should not lead to undue delay in taking any necessary action.
- may consult with other agencies to seek guidance and advice in knowing how to respond appropriately to the concerns that have been raised.

### **The duty to REPORT**

The DPS will decide who the report should be referred on to, working in conjunction with the church Safeguarding Team where appropriate. They may:

- refer back to the worker who made the initial report if there is little evidence that a child or adult at risk is being harmed, asking for appropriate continued observation.
- refer the concern to others who work with the child or adult at risk in question, asking for continued observation where appropriate.
- Inform parents / carers under certain circumstances, where doing so would not present any further risk of harm.
- Make a formal referral to the police or local Social Services team. With adults at risk, confidentiality means that someone's personal business is not discussed with others, except with their permission. This is not always possible when considering passing relevant information about abuse or concerns to the statutory authorities, however, it is possible to keep the information confidential to the relevant parties. This means not telling or hinting to others what has been disclosed, not even for prayer ministry purposes. For adults at risk, concerns will only be referred to the police or Social Services without consent where:
  - the person lacks the mental capacity to make such a choice
  - there is a risk of harm to others
  - in order to prevent a crime
- If an allegation is made against someone who works with children\* the allegation should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or equivalent. The LADO is located within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:
  - behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
  - possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
  - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

- If an allegation is made against someone who works with adults at risk\*, it should be reported to the police or Adult Social Services.

*\*If a worker has an allegation made against them, they should step down from all church duties until the incident has been investigated by the statutory authorities. It may also be appropriate to put a Safeguarding Contract in place; this should be discussed with the local Baptist Association Safeguarding Contact.*

- Whenever a formal referral is made to the police, Social Services or LADO, the DPS should report the referral to:
  - The Safeguarding Trustee
  - The Minister
  - The local Baptist Association Safeguarding Contact

A record should be kept of all safeguarding incidents and should be considered in the annual review of the church's safeguarding policy. All original reports should be retained safely and securely by the DPS and a written record should be made of the actions taken.

### **STAGE 3 – THE NEXT STEPS**

Responsibilities to **REPORT** and **SUPPORT** in stage 3 of the process are shared by the church Safeguarding Team and the Minister.

#### **The duty to SUPPORT**

Once concerns, suspicions and disclosures of abuse have been addressed, the church continues to have a responsibility to offer support to all those who have been affected, including:

Victims; Alleged perpetrators; Children; Adults at risk; Other family members; Church workers; Church Safeguarding Team; Minister; Leadership Team.

#### **The duty to REPORT**

If a church worker has been accused of causing harm to children, young people or adults at risk this would be classed as a serious incident that should be reported to the Charity Commission by those churches that are registered with the Charity Commission.

If a worker has been removed from their post or would have been removed from their post because of the risk of harm that they pose to children, young people or adults at risk, there is also a statutory duty to report the incident to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

## APPENDIX 3 – SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT FORM

*This form should be completed by the Designated Person for Safeguarding*

<b>Name of church / organisation</b>	
<b>Contact details of church / organisation</b>	

<b>Name of Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)</b>	
<b>Contact details of Designated Person for Safeguarding</b>	

<b>Name of concerned person or to whom disclosure was given</b>	
<b>Contact details of concerned person or whom disclosure was given</b>	

### INDIVIDUAL OF CONCERN - CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Phone number / Email address</b>	

### THE INCIDENT

What happened? (Nature of concern / disclosure made - use the person's own words if known)

When did it happen? (date, time)

Where did it happen? (specific location)

Who was allegedly involved and in what way? (includes witnesses)



## ANY ACTION THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN

Have the carers or parents / guardians been informed? (Please tick)

If so, when and by whom?

Have the statutory authorities been informed?

If so, please complete the table:

Yes	No	
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Yes	No	
-----	----	--

*Example:*

Authority	Police				
Name	Bobby				
Position	Child abuse officer				
Email contact	bobby@police.com				
Phone contact	077999				
Contacted by	Minister				
Date & time of contact	1.30pm 1/4/15				

Has the Local Association been informed?

*(Please do so if the statutory authorities are involved)*

If so, when and by whom?

Any other action taken:

Yes	No	
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## FUTURE ACTION TO BE TAKEN

What action needs to be taken?

Who is responsible for this?

## SIGNATURES

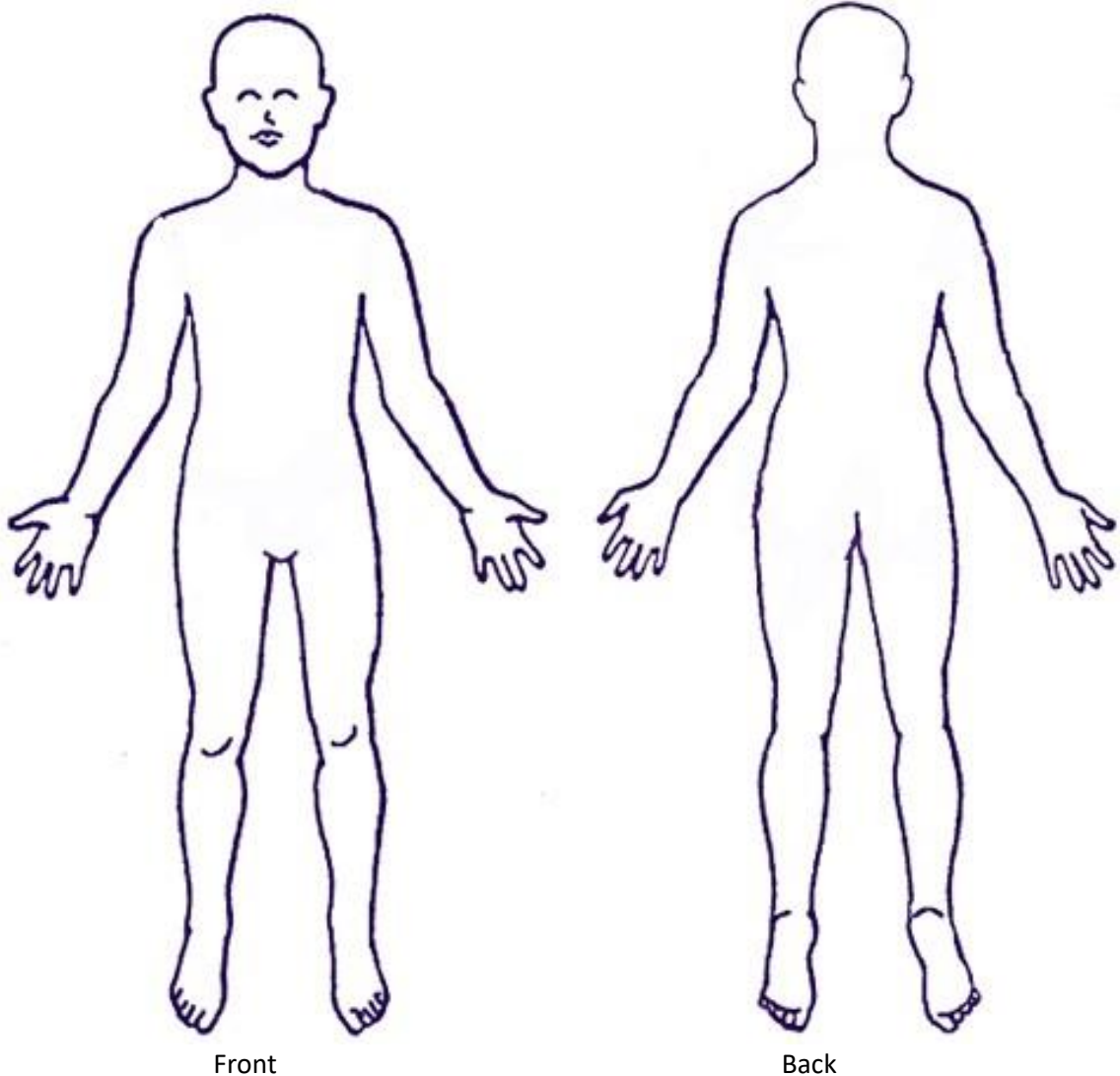
Signature of Designated Safeguarding Person		Signature of minister, or Church Safeguarding Team member	
Date & time		Date & time	

## BODY MAP

Name of Individual of Concern \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person completing this form \_\_\_\_\_

These diagrams are designed for the recording of any observable bodily injuries that may appear on the person. Where bruises, burns, cuts, or other injuries occur, shade and label them clearly on the diagram. **Remember it's not your job to investigate or to decide if an injury or mark is non-accidental. Listen, observe and pass it on.**



Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time \_\_\_\_\_

### **For more information:**

Please see [www.baptist.org.uk](http://www.baptist.org.uk) for more information about safeguarding in Baptist churches, including a range of specialist guides and a library of free downloadable resources.

### **BUGB Excellence in Safeguarding training for your church:**

Information and booking arrangements for the BUGB Levels 2 and Level 3 Excellence in Safeguarding training can be made through your local Baptist association team. Please see their website for details of nearby courses or the opportunity to host safeguarding training at your church.

### **In an emergency:**

If you find yourself facing an emergency situation, where you believe that someone attending your church is being harmed or is at imminent risk of harm, please ring the police on 999 and ask to speak to an officer in the child or adult protection teams. Always keep records and let your DPS know that you have made this call.

