



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Contents

Contents	2
Safeguarding Policy Statement	8
THEBARN BIDFORD's Policy	10
<i>Safe Community</i>	10
<i>The Safeguarding Team</i>	11
THEBARN BIDFORD Roles & Responsibilities	12
<i>Leaders/Trustees</i>	12
<i>Designated Person for Safeguarding</i>	12
<i>Pastors (including Children's & Youth Ministry Leaders)</i>	12
All Age Community	13
<i>Before, During, and After Church Services & Gatherings</i>	14
<i>Visitors & Guests</i>	15
Guidelines	15
<i>Family, All-Age Services & Messy Church</i>	15
<i>The Multi-Generational Dramatic or Musical Production</i>	16
Other User Groups	16
Safe Practice	17
<i>Procedures to promote safe practice</i>	17
Health & Safety	17
Risk Assessment	18
<i>What is a risk assessment?</i>	18
Furniture: <i>Is it in a safe condition, child-sized, etc.?</i>	18
Equipment: <i>Are potentially hazardous tools, cleaning fluids etc. stored in a safe, locked place?</i>	18
Electrical: <i>Have there been PAT checks on all electrical equipment and do you visually check them regularly?</i>	18
Lighting: <i>Is the room / building well-lit internally and externally especially around entrance points?</i>	18
Security: <i>How easy would it be for a child or young person to leave the room / building during an activity without being noticed? How easy would it be for a stranger to get into the room / building during a children's or young person's activity without being noticed?</i>	18
First Aid: <i>Is there a first aid box and is it kept full? Are there people who are trained in first aid on site? Do you have an accident book for record purposes?</i>	18
Fire Equipment: <i>Is there suitable fire-fighting equipment over the whole of the premises? What is the risk of fire breaking out? Do you carry out fire drills? Do all of the children's and young people's workers know how to respond to a fire alarm?</i>	18
Risk Assessment Form	19
Outings and Overnight Events	20
<i>Overnight events</i>	20
<i>Risk assessment</i>	20
<i>Parental consent</i>	20
<i>Sleeping arrangements</i>	20
<i>Checklist for Residential Activities</i>	21
Ratios	22
The age of the children and young people	22
Special needs	22
Behavioural issues	22
The Venue	22

Covering for emergencies	22
Gender balance	22
Recommended minimum ratios	22
What happens when ratios fall below the required level?	23
The one-off situation	23
The on-going situation	23
Behaviour Codes : A Loving & Caring Community	24
Parental Consent	25
Good Practice : Safeguarding	26
Safe Recruitment	27
<i>Why recruitment procedures?</i>	27
<i>Support, Supervision & Training of Leaders & Workers</i>	28
DBS Checks	29
Who needs to be checked?	29
Is there a minimum age for a DBS check?	29
Can a joint DBS check for children and adults at risk be applied for?	29
Do I need to pay for my DBS check?	29
Applying for a DBS check at THEBARN BIDFORD	30
Step 1: Starting the Checking Process	30
Step 2: Complete the Online Form	30
Step 3 : Checking Original Documents	31
Step 4: Submission of a Completed and Verified Form	31
Step 5: Receiving Disclosures	31
Handling Disclosure Information	32
Storage and Access	32
Handling	32
Usage	32
Retention	32
DBS Customer Services	32
Disposal	32
Policy Statement on Equal Opportunities	33
Data Protection, Consent, Permission & Storage of Information	34
<i>Summary of Data Protection Principles</i>	34
Data Protection Principles	34
Guidelines and Good Practice: Complying with Data Protection	34
Information Commissioner	35
<i>Data protection, Human Rights and Safeguarding</i>	35
Appointing Volunteers & Workers in the Children & Youth Teams at THEBARN BIDFORD	36
The process we follow includes...	36
Appointing and Supporting Young Leaders	38
<i>Young Leaders Under 16 & 18 Years of Age</i>	38
<i>Young Adult Leaders 18 Years & Over</i>	39
Electronic Communication	39
Abuse of Trust	40
Volunteers from Overseas	41
Example Scenarios	41
Abuse of Trust	42
Guidelines for Good Behaviour and Advice for Discipline	44
Guidelines for Appropriate Physical Contact with Children and Young People	45
<i>theBarn Bidford Safeguarding Policy (July 2018)</i>	

Working with Disruptive Children	46
If a child/young person is being disruptive:	46
Children with Special Needs	47
Children from ‘the Street’	48
Visiting Children at Home	49
<i>Guidelines for visiting:</i>	49
Transporting Children & Young People	50
When children & young people are transported in cars	50
<i>Transport Best Practice and Guidelines</i>	51
If using a mini-bus or coach to transport children or young people	52
Talking and Listening to Children & Young People	52
Counselling, Listening & Pastoral Care	53
<i>Parental consent</i>	53
<i>Confidentiality</i>	54
Guidelines for Good Pastoral Care	55
<i>Remember</i>	55
<i>Aims</i>	55
<i>Guidelines</i>	55
First Aid Kit and Contacts	56
First Aid Training and Advice contacts:	56
Guidelines for Non-Medical/Non-Nursing Staff for Administration of Pre-Loaded Adrenaline Injection for Children with Anaphylactic Reactions	57
<i>Anaphylactic Reactions</i>	57
<i>Church Arrangements</i>	57
<i>Signs or Symptoms of Anaphylaxis</i>	57
Guidelines for Being Alone with Young People	58
<i>Unplanned Occasions When a Worker is Alone with Children or Young People</i>	58
<i>Working One to One</i>	59
Recognition	59
Accountability	60
Supervision	60
Maintaining Distance	60
Confidentiality	60
Venue	60
Electronic Communication	61
Mobile phones	62
Social Networking, Instant Messaging, Facebook etc.	62
<i>Guidelines and Good Practice:</i>	62
Photography	63
<i>Guidelines for Photography, Filming and Image Use</i>	63
<i>Digital Dignity</i>	63
Understanding Abuse	64
<i>Definitions of Abuse</i>	64
Abuse	64
Children	64
Emotional Abuse	64
Neglect	64
Physical Abuse	65
Sexual Abuse	65

Sexual Exploitation	65
Grooming	65
Using secrets and intimidation to control children	66
Online grooming	66
Spiritual Abuse	66
Who causes harm to children?	67
Age of consent	67
Significant Harm	67
Organised Abuse	68
Child Prostitution	68
Signs of Abuse	68
Race, Culture and Religion	68
Ways that harm might be discovered	69
Domestic Abuse	69
Recognising Domestic Abuse	69
National Domestic Violence Helpline	70
What can I do if I think someone I know has been abused?	70
Dos and Don'ts in dealing with domestic abuse	71
What can you do?	71
What not to do	71
Self Harming	72
Some of the reasons people give for self-harming include:	72
Common causes of self-harm include:	73
Possible Indicators of Self-Harm	73
Responding to Self-Harm	74
Continuing to self-harm after disclosure	74
Suicidal Feelings	74
Providing Support	75
Looking after yourself	75
Disclosure requirements	76
<i>Key Contacts</i>	76
SelfharmUK	76
Alumina	76
Harmless	76
Samaritans	76
Young Minds	76
When a Child Expresses Concern	77
When a child expresses a concern... Listen, listen, listen	77
Do's	77
Helpful Responses	77
Don'ts	77
Unhelpful Responses (Don't Say)	78
Summary	78
Responding to Allegations of Abuse	79
1. <i>Record & Report</i>	79
The Duty to RECORD	79
The Duty to REPORT	80
2. <i>Review & Refer</i>	81
The Duty to REVIEW	81
The Duty to REFER	81
3. <i>Report & Support</i>	82
The Duty to REPORT	82
The Duty to SUPPORT	83

Child/Young Person	83
Other Family Members	83
Church Worker/Volunteer	83
Pastors/Leaders	83
Concerns About a Worker in the Church	84
What should trigger a report being made to the Designated Person?	85
When the concern involves the Designated Person	85
When concerns are expressed about the Pastor(s)	85
Flow Chart for Action	86
Designated Person for Safeguarding: Steps in Decision Making	87
Help for Those Who Have Been Abused	88
The Role of the Statutory Agencies	89
<i>Contact details</i>	89
Children and Families Help Desk	89
Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)	89
When a Known Offender is Present & Working with Offenders	90
Pastoral Care	92
Repentance and Forgiveness	92
Useful Addresses and Telephone Numbers	94
Social Services Department	94
Police Child Protection Team	94
Insurance Company	94
<i>Church Information, Contact Details.</i>	94
Regular Place of Meeting & Worship	94
Senior Pastor	94
Children's Pastor	94
Pre-School Pastor	94
Youth Ministry Leader	94
Heral of England Baptist Association	94
<i>National Emergency Helplines</i>	95
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline	95
Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)	95
Childline	95
CEOP : Online Safety	95
<i>Disclosure and Barring Service Contacts</i>	95
Due Diligence Checking Ltd (DDC)	95
Disclosure and Barring Service	95
General Safeguarding Advice and Guidance	96
Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)	96
Circles UK	96
NSPCC	96
Working Together to Safeguard Children	96
Sanctuary	96
Safe Network	96
Charity Commission	96
Information Sources For Residential Activities	97
The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority,	97
Institute for Outdoor Learning,	97
British Safety Council,	97
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents,	97
Appendix	98

<i>Risk Assessment Form</i>	99
<i>Parental Consent & Medical Form (under 18's)</i>	100
<i>Transporting Children & Young People Consent Form</i>	104
<i>Swimming Trip Consent Form</i>	105
<i>Incident Report Form</i>	107
<i>Application Form for Voluntary Work Children & Young People</i>	110
<i>Volunteer Agreement</i>	113
Index	115

Name of Organisation: **theBarn Bidford (theBARN BIDFORD)**

Church Mission Statement

“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.

THEBARN BIDFORD recognises the importance of its ministry to children, young people and adults at risk, as well as its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults entrusted to the work of THEBARN BIDFORD. **Safeguarding** is the protection of adults and children from harm, abuse or neglect. Safeguarding involves a range of activities aimed at promoting the individual’s right to be safe. These include making and maintaining safe environments for all, having processes to follow should something go wrong, and support for everyone involved.

The following policy was revised, updated and agreed by theBarn Bidford on 16th July 2018.

- **As a church we are committed to supporting and encouraging children, adults, parents and families in the growth of their Christian faith**
- **As pastors, staff, volunteer workers and church members we are committed to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk**
- **We recognise that Safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility**
- **We are committed to following the agreed procedures and following statutory, denominational, educational and specialist guidelines**
- **We seek to support all in the community affected by abuse with whom we have contact**
- **We review this policy regularly**

As part of our Vision and Mission, theBARN BIDFORD are committed to:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children, young people & adults at risk, as well as promoting their welfare and protection
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the children's workers within theBARN BIDFORD
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse
- Encouraging and supporting children and their parents/carers
- Supporting those in the community with whom we have contact who are affected by abuse
- Maintaining good links with the statutory childcare authorities and other organisations

If you have any concerns for a child or in relation to any Safeguarding matter please speak to **Richard (Perce) Pirson** who has been approved as **Designated Safeguarding Person**. If the Designated Person is unavailable please contact one of the designated **Safeguarding Officers**. These individuals have been nominated by theBARN BIDFORD to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.

A copy of the full policy, good practice guidelines and all relevant forms are kept on file and is available in the church premises during normal times of meeting

Approved:

The Barn trustees in their leadership meeting on 16th July 2018. Details in the meeting minutes.

theBarn Bidford recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults at risk. They also acknowledge that children, young people and adults at risk can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. theBarn Bidford have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter “the policy”). It also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies. The policy and enclosed practice guidelines are based on a model published by the Baptist Union (Safe to Grow) and Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and prepared in consultation with other organisations published guidelines.

theBarn Bidford are committed to on-going Safeguarding training for all children's, youth and workers in contact with vulnerable adults, and will regularly review the operational guidelines enclosed with this policy.

theBARN BIDFORD also undertake to follow the principles found within the Abuse of Trust (see below) guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

Safe Community

theBARN BIDFORD is committed to the prevention of bullying of children, young people, adults at risk, and indeed any individual or group. theBARN BIDFORD will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children and young people in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Safeguarding concentrates quite rightly on the importance of children's and young people's workers being appointed carefully, behaving appropriately, and adopting safe practices in order to promote the safety and welfare of children and young people in the life of the church. However, when children and young people become a part of the life of the church they become part of a far wider community. This wider community life of the church has the potential to enrich their development and growth, but it also brings with it additional risks that need to be addressed.

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

Further information and details of the Baptist Union of Great Britain's “Safe to Belong – Safeguarding Adults at Risk (2015)” is available for [download here](#).

Firstly, this wider community involves the other children and young people. We dare not ignore the fact that children and young people are able to be cruel and unkind to one another. We, therefore, need to have procedures in place which address in particular the potential for bullying. (Note that any counter bullying policy relates to all forms of bullying and includes the bullying of children by adults and vice versa.)

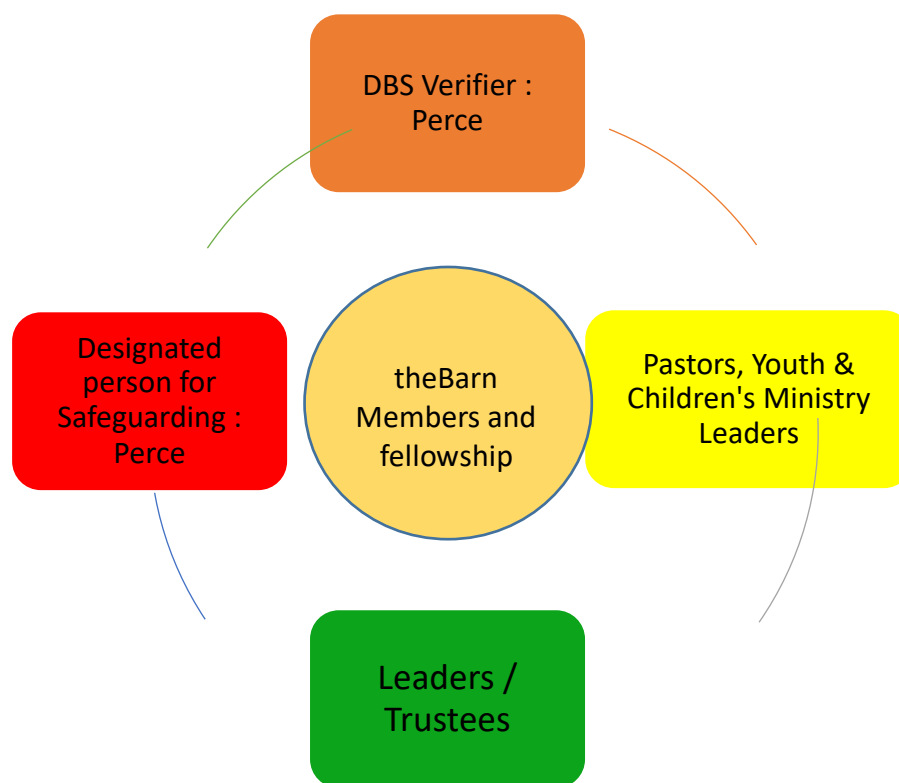
Secondly, children and young people are often introduced and welcomed into the wider church community. Particularly when children and young people attend church on Sundays (but also on other occasions) they will be on the premises and may interact with a wide range of people who will not have been through any kind of ‘vetting’ procedure and who may not have any awareness of the

church's safeguarding policy and procedures. In this regard, a particular issue arises when a person attends the church who is known to have offended against children or young people in the past. As a gospel community that seeks to be inclusive and that offers forgiveness and new life, we seek to do all in our power to enable such a person to find their place within the community of the church. However, this will have to be done in such a way that children and young people are not placed at risk.

The Safeguarding Team

includes the Designated Person, Safeguarding Officers, the wider Leadership Team and whole theBARN BIDFORD Family

The role of the Designated Person is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to the Social Services Department where appropriate. It is Social Services' task to investigate these matters. THEBARN BIDFORD will support the Designated Person in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a 'need to know' basis.



Designated Safeguarding Person :

Senior Pastor :

Youth Ministry Leader

Children's Pastor

Pre-School Pastor

DBS Verifier

(also authorised to verify DBS checks)

Richard 'Perce' Pirson

Jamie Cox

Mary Keyte

Faith Lamb

Claire Griffiths

Richard 'Perce' Pirson

Leaders/Trustees

- Ultimately responsible for Safeguarding and Good Practice
- Responsible for implementation of policy and procedures
- Responsible for supporting the teams and workers/volunteers.

Designated Person for Safeguarding

- Takes the lead amongst the Leadership/Trustees Team for Safeguarding matters
- The point of contact with Leadership/Trustees for Safeguarding issues
- Ensures the Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually
- Receives all reports of concerns regarding Safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk
- Acts on those concerns appropriately having taken advice
- is the link person between theBARN BIDFORD and other agencies or bodies on Safeguarding matters

Pastors (including Children's & Youth Ministry Leaders)

- Share the general responsibility for the adoption and implementation of theBARN BIDFORD's Safeguarding Policy
- Should be made aware of any safeguarding and child protection issues within the church
- Take responsibility for ensuring that pastoral needs of all are being met.

The church community is unlike many other communities that work with children and young people. The church community is an all-age community seeking to make space for all - all ages, all abilities, all backgrounds.

If an organisation's sole focus is to work with children and young people, it is possible for that organisation to establish very firm boundaries such that anyone who is thought to be unsuitable to work with children and young people can be excluded from the organisation. While churches are in a position to exclude such people from holding positions of trust with children and young people, we would want to do everything possible for those people still to find their rightful place within our community of the church.

In this kind of community there will be occasions when boundaries become blurred. For example, there will be times when it will not be at all clear whether the church is taking responsibility for the care of children and young people or whether the children, while on church premises, are still in the care and responsibility of their parents. There will be a number of occasions when children and young people will be present on church premises as part of the all-age community of the church where careful consideration needs to be given as to what it means to provide them with a safe environment:

- before and after church services
- family or all-age services
- social events that are open to the whole church family
- rehearsals for productions that might include children, young people and adults

Some general points need to be made with regard to all of these situations:

- All of these situations give rise to circumstances where children and young people could be placed in a vulnerable situation should a bully or a potential abuser wish to take advantage.
- These situations highlight the importance of the Safeguarding Children Policy being adopted, owned and understood by the whole church membership. The annual review of the policy should address areas of church life where adults, children and young people come together but where no formal children's or youth activities are being organised. The report of the review should also give an occasion for educating the church meeting and helping all church members and members of the congregation to understand their responsibilities with regard to safeguarding.
- Wherever possible it should be clear when representatives of the church are taking responsibility for the welfare of children and young people and when children and young people on church premises are in the care of their parents/carers.
- Good and clear communication with parents/carers is imperative so that they understand when the church is taking responsibility for their children and when the church understands the children and young people are in the care of their parents/carers.
- Whenever children and young people are on church premises, regardless of whether they are in the care of their parents or of the church, the church will be responsible for health and safety issues regarding the church premises.
- If the church is aware of hazards affecting the welfare and safety of children and young people in the context of church-organised activities or relating to the church premises, it has a duty to take action to minimize the risks posed by those hazards.

Before, During, and After Church Services & Gatherings

Sunday services are a time for fellowship. Before the service, members of the congregation greet one another and catch up on the week's news and after the morning service has ended in many of our churches people are encouraged to linger over refreshments. During this time children and young people are often mingling with the rest of the congregation or taking themselves off to play with friends. It is important that due consideration is given to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people during these times.

- **theBARN BIDFORD makes it clear that children and young people are under parental responsibility before, during and after the service, unless they are taken to an age specific group.**
 - All children and young people in our kids church groups must be signed in and signed out by their parents/carers with the group leader/team. Once the children have been collected from their group the responsibility for each child reverts from the group leaders to the parents or adult who is in charge of collecting them.
- **Special care and attention must be given in and around the Car Park.**

If children under the age of 8 attend unaccompanied by any adults either:

- their parents/carers should be informed of the level of care that the church is able to take for their welfare (i.e. when they will be in the formal care of workers); or
- the workers in their groups should take responsibility for them from the time they arrive at church to the time they leave. A meeting point and time should be agreed before the service. After the group finishes, the worker will be responsible for the child until the child leaves the church premises.

It is not wise for children under the age of 8 to be on church premises unless they are in the care of an adult. Either it should be insisted that children under the age of 8 are accompanied by a parent/carer (or another adult identified by the parent/carer) when not part of an organised children's group, or during those times the church should make arrangements for an adult to supervise such young children.

- Particular care and planning should be used (including assessing risks) when Junior Church/Young People gather away from the Premises on a Sunday morning; including
 - to ensure road safety and a sufficient child:adult ratios
 - clear signing in and signing out protocols for children/young people with parents/carers.
 - What to do and who to contact in an emergency or if extra assistance is needed.

The church should be aware of any particular hazards to children and young people during Sunday services, and times when we gather for other fellowship events. In particular, we will consider the following...

- Are children and young people congregating in rooms in the church with no adult supervision?
- Are there any hazards associated with the serving or preparing of hot drinks?
- Is it possible for young children to wander from the church premises unsupervised onto the road?

- We consider the kitchen as 'out of bounds' for children and young people; unless they are being closely supervised or part of an organised activity (e.g. making pizzas).
- If there are any adults in the congregation who pose a risk to children and young people their behaviour should be closely monitored during these times. If theBARN BIDFORD has a known offender attending it is important that the conditions of the offender's contract are fully enforced and adhered to (see page 95-98)

Visitors & Guests

Normally, only people allowed to participate in a children's/youth activity are the leaders and workers assigned to that group. Other adults should not be allowed free access.

From time to time visitors or guests might attend a group or event (i.e. parents, special guests, family friends of a child/young person).

Similarly, someone might be invited to attend a group with the view to joining the team of leaders/helpers.

Guidelines

- The team/group leader should be informed that a guest/visitor will be present and the reason for their attendance with a group or at a meeting.
- Ideally, the visitor should wear a badge/lanyard identifying them as a 'visitor', and the leader should usually introduce the guest as a 'visitor' to the group.
- A guest or visitor should not be left alone with the group.
- Normally, a visitor would only be expected to attend the group no more than 2 or 3 times. If someone 'visits' regularly the children/young people may begin to assume the adult is a regular part of the group or team.
 - If the visitor is exploring whether to join the team as a leader or helper, after 2 or 3 visits the Team Leader should begin the normal process of recruitment. (see p.28)
- The group leader and team members should use wisdom to maintain a healthy balance providing a hospitable welcome to any visitor whilst exercise good judgement and due care for children and young people.
- Talk through any issues, or particular circumstances with the appropriate Children's Ministry Leader or Youth Ministry Leader. Alternatively discuss with the Designated Person for Safeguarding.

Family, All-Age Services & Messy Church

One particular challenge of family or all-age services is that no one may understand themselves to be responsible for the formal care of the children and young people who attend.

It is important that the parents or carers of children and young people understand the basis on which their children are attending the service.

- Any parents who are present should know that they are not entrusting their children into the care of others but remain responsible themselves for the welfare of their children.
- Any parents who send their children unaccompanied should understand the level of care and supervision that their children will be given.
- Again, it is not wise for children under the age of 8 to be on church premises unless they are in the care of an adult. Either it should be insisted that children under the age of 8 are accompanied by a parent/carer (or another adult identified by a parent/carer), or the church should make arrangements for an adult to supervise such young children.

theBARN BIDFORD affirms to all parents/carers that the church does not take responsibility for the care of children and young people who attend all-age services and Messy Church, and that all children and young people will be deemed to be in the care of their parents/carers or an adult to whom the parent/carer has entrusted their child.

Even if it is clear that children and young people are in the care of their parents for a family service, the church will continue to have a duty of care with regard to the wider welfare issues for the members of the congregation including children and young people.

The Multi-Generational Dramatic or Musical Production

The experience of putting on a dramatic or musical production that brings the whole church family together can be a powerful way of building relationships across the church family. However, care should be taken that the church's Safeguarding Children Policy is not compromised during the process, thus putting children or young people at risk. However, neither should fears about safeguarding issues make such a project unworkable, because it is thought that everyone who has any kind of contact with children or young people will have to have a DBS Disclosure.

Children and young people will be appropriately protected if the following guidelines are followed:

- named people will be responsible for the care and welfare of children and young people during the rehearsals and production
- these people will be appointed under the procedures laid down under the church's Safeguarding Children Policy and will be fully conversant with the church's policy and procedures
- at least two of these named people will be present whenever children and young people are involved in rehearsals and for the production itself
- these named people will be responsible for ensuring the welfare of children and young people and in particular will be vigilant to ensure that all interaction between adults and children is appropriate and does not pose a risk of harm to children and young people.

Other User Groups

From time to time other groups may use the church building for events or groups (private or community use). If these outside hirers use our building and work with children or young people, it is good practice to require them to have a safeguarding children policy and accompanying procedures in place, based on the Home Office recommendations 'Safe from Harm'.

Hiring the Church Building / Room usage is overseen by the Church Secretary. theBARN BIDFORD requires that any group formally hiring the Church Premises which would include working with children or young people to have their own Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. theBARN BIDFORD reserves the right to request to see a copy of this safeguarding policy and procedures document.

theBARN BIDFORD notes that it is not our responsibility to ensure that the safeguarding policy is being properly implemented. This responsibility lies with the group themselves and their trustees. However, if it came to light that a group using our premises were not following appropriate safeguarding procedures and that children or young people were being placed at risk, the church should seriously consider terminating the rental/hire/use agreement.

Some groups using church premises may need to be registered with OFSTED. If this is the case theBARN BIDFORD will request to see their OFSTED registration certificate.

'One-off' private hirers (for example, children's parties) would not be expected to have a safeguarding policy, but they would still need to show due care and attention.

Safe Practice

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and young people and will adopt ways of working with children and young people that promote their safety and well-being.

Procedures to promote safe practice

There is widespread concern that the 'Health & Safety culture' that has become part of the modern society has got out of control. Some have become so afraid of taking risks that children and young people are prevented from taking part in activities that bring enjoyment, adventure and challenge into their lives. However, that same 'Health & Safety culture' has grown up because in the past we have often been careless of risk. Schools, clubs and churches have organised activities without giving due care and attention to the potential hazards that might cause harm to children and young people – hazards that could have been foreseen. Often very simple measures can be taken that enable children and young people to continue with all of the activities that they were doing, but in a way that minimises the risk. A very simple example would be using round-ended scissors rather than scissors with a sharp point.

At theBARN BIDFORD, we are not trying to create the illusion of a risk-free world for children and young people. Indeed, that would be unhealthy for children's development. Some degree of risk in life is unavoidable. Part of a child's development is in learning to live in a world that can sometimes be threatening and harmful. However, we should seek to minimize the occasions for unnecessary risk. The law does not expect us to eliminate all risk, but under our duty of care as a church we are required to protect people as far as is 'reasonably practicable'.

"All children both need and want to take risks in order to explore limits, venture into new experiences and develop their capacities, from a very young age and from their earliest play experiences." At theBARN BIDFORD we have a sensible culture of safety and risk assessment when working with children and young people. The best way to do this is to introduce procedures and practices that become 'second nature' to those who are working with children and young people in the church.

Health & Safety

A desire to safeguard children and young people from harm will mean that we need to be safety conscious. This will begin with the buildings in which the activities take place. theBARN BIDFORD takes health and safety seriously; we regularly review our Risk Assessment Policy and Procedures.

We encourage group leaders, as well as church members and congregation, to be active and 'notice' if they see, discern or observe any risks or issues which could cause harm or danger. Many eyes and ears enable us to mitigate and reduce risk, and prevent it being 'someone else's problem.'

If you notice any issues relating to Health and Safety, please address your concerns to either the Facilities Manager (Steve King), one of the Trustees or one of the Staff Team.

What is a risk assessment?

A risk assessment involves looking at what could go wrong in any programme or event you are planning, asking what the risks and hazards are, and looking at ways to prevent or minimise those risks.

Definitions: A HAZARD is anything that could cause harm. The RISK is the likelihood (whether high or low) that someone will be harmed by the hazard.

THE PROCESS:

1. **Identify the hazards:** *Walk around the venue, think through your programme and think about the individual children and young people you are working with (taking into account age, special needs, whether physical, emotional or behavioural, etc.) What/who could reasonably be expected to cause harm? Look back at accident records/incidents. What has been a hazard in the past?*
2. **Decide who might be harmed and how:** *Any groups? Particular individuals? How might they be harmed? What type of injury?*
3. **Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions:** *What can you do about the hazards? Can I get rid of the hazards altogether? If not, how can I control the risks so that harm is unlikely?*
4. **Record your findings and implement them:** *Writing down your risk assessment and sharing them with your colleagues helps to ensure everyone understands the risks and subsequent controls. Risk Assessments can then be reviewed and reused at a later date.*
5. **Review your risk assessment and update if necessary:** *When working with children and young people, the level of risk will vary depending upon the particular individuals you are working with, and the gifts and abilities of your workers. Thus risk assessments should be reviewed when necessary.*

WHAT?

Furniture: *Is it in a safe condition, child-sized, etc.?*

Equipment: *Are potentially hazardous tools, cleaning fluids etc. stored in a safe, locked place?*

Electrical: *Have there been PAT checks on all electrical equipment and do you visually check them regularly?*

Lighting: *Is the room / building well-lit internally and externally especially around entrance points?*

Security: *How easy would it be for a child or young person to leave the room / building during an activity without being noticed? How easy would it be for a stranger to get into the room / building during a children's or young person's activity without being noticed?*

First Aid: *Is there a first aid box and is it kept full? Are there people who are trained in first aid on site? Do you have an accident book for record purposes?*

Fire Equipment: *Is there suitable fire-fighting equipment over the whole of the premises? What is the risk of fire breaking out? Do you carry out fire drills? Do all of the children's and young people's workers know how to respond to a fire alarm?*

Under the church's Safeguarding Children Policy every worker should be given clear information about the following:

- their individual responsibility to uphold the church's Health & Safety Policy;
- how to report incidents and concerns under the church's Health & Safety Policy;
- where the First Aid equipment is kept and how accidents should be reported;
- what procedures should be followed in the event of a fire.

WHEN?

For **regular young people's ministries**, risk assessment should be carried out by ministry team leaders on a termly basis. This will usually involve a review and updating of existing assessments. If the event is going to take place away from the normal venue or if an activity may involve a greater risk, then a risk assessment should be conducted.

Risk assessments should be carried out by the person organising a **special event or outing** every time.

Risk assessments should be visible in meeting venues, presented to the trustees and stored in your personal files.

Example grids for carrying out a risk assessment

Risk Assessment Form

Appendix p.110

For all events when children and young people are taken off the church premises:

- A specific Risk Assessment (page 110) should be carried out, including an assessment of the appropriate ratio of adults to children (page 24-25).
- Parents should be informed in writing of the arrangements.
- The children and young people should be divided into groups, each with a responsible adult, even if the whole group is to remain together. Each adult should be given a written list of those children or young people for whom they have responsibility.
- If travelling in several small groups, it is good practice to insist that the same group of children or young people travel with the same adult on both the outgoing and return journeys. This minimises the possibility of children or young people going astray because of false assumptions that someone else has taken them.

Overnight events

For overnight events particular care needs to be taken, not least when it comes to making arrangements for sleeping accommodation. It is impossible to lay down hard and fast rules to cover all situations. However, sensible precautions will minimize the risks for children or young people and workers.

All of the above bullet-points should apply. Additionally, the following best practice should be followed:

Risk assessment

- Particular note should be taken regarding the proposed venue and its suitability for providing sufficient rooms for children and adults to sleep together with arrangements for toilets and washing etc.
- Are there sufficient fire exits from the sleeping accommodation in the event of a fire?
- Are all of the workers conversant with the procedures in the event of a fire?
- Ascertain prior to the event the local telephone numbers and other information that would be needed in the event of an emergency (caretaker or other contact for property if not on site, local doctor, the location of the nearest Accident and Emergency Hospital etc.).

Parental consent

- Separate parental consent should be obtained for each event where the child or young person will be cared for overnight. (see page 111)
- A contact phone number overnight for the parent/carers should be obtained for the particular night(s) of the event.
- Parents/carers should be given the address of the overnight venue together with a contact phone number for making contact in the event of an emergency. If giving a mobile phone number as the main point of contact please ensure beforehand that the signal strength at the venue is sufficient to make and receive calls.
- Consideration should be given to having a meeting with parents/carers prior to the event

Sleeping arrangements

- Males and females should sleep separately
- If it is a mixed group of both boys and girls, there must be a mix of male and female adult workers

- Come to a measured judgment based on the circumstances of the group you are taking away as to whether it is wise for adults to share sleeping accommodation with children or young people. This will depend on the ages of the children, their need of support, the likelihood of older children bullying younger children, and the nature of the venue. If adults share sleeping accommodation with children and young people, children and young people should always be able to dress and undress separately from adults. An adult should never sleep alone in a room with children or young people.

Checklist for Residential Activities

The following checklist will help to identify a number of important issues that should be considered for the safety and well-being of the children and young people when planning residential events:

- At least one of the workers/leaders should be responsible for First Aid and should hold an appropriate, valid certificate
- Ideally the person responsible for catering should hold a Basic Food Hygiene Certificate
- Check the insurance cover of any building in which you will be sleeping. There may be a limit on numbers it accommodates. If you exceed these, insurance can be invalid.
- Check the building and know where water, electricity and gas can be turned off.
- Fire safety
 - Know the fire drill for the building, and make sure you have a fire drill as soon as possible after entering the premises.
 - Know where the fire extinguishers are.
 - A Location Specific Plan should be displayed alongside the Fire Notice in each room.
 - Church halls and rooms used for sleeping larger numbers of people must have two means of exit.
- Know where the nearest hospital and doctor are. It is good practice to make contact with a local doctor prior to the event.
- It is a good idea to notify the local police. This applies if you are sleeping in any building, even if only for one night, and even if it is your own church. Also it is helpful to inform the fire brigade.
- Ensure that parents/carers have returned a health form stating any special dietary requirements and current medication, giving the name and telephone number of the child's doctor and consenting to emergency medical treatment.
- Residential activities must have safety rules
 - letting adults know where you are
 - not entering the kitchen without asking the cook, etc.
- Make sure the children have correct clothing for whatever activity they are taking part in. It is useful to issue a 'kit list' for residential activities.
- Where outdoor activities are concerned, either leaders should have the appropriate qualification, or if the activity is being provided by an outside organisation, then you should check that this organisation is registered with the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority and has appropriate insurance. Current guidelines suggest that for any camping or hill walking activity, the basic qualification which should be held is the Basic Expedition Leader Award (BELA) or an equivalent, for example a scout or guiding qualification.

An important aspect of any risk assessment is ensuring that you have a suitable ratio of staff to children and young people. A number of factors will come into play in assessing the ratio for any particular activity or group:

The age of the children and young people

- Generally speaking the younger the children, the higher the ratio should be of adults to children.

Special needs

- Do any of the children have special needs that will require additional support?

Behavioural issues

- Do any of the children or does the group as a whole present challenging behaviour that can be difficult to control?

The Venue

- If your buildings are large and sprawling and it is difficult to contain children and young people while on the premises it may be necessary to have additional personnel
- Activities that take place away from the church premises normally require a higher ratio of adults to children than those that take place inside.

Covering for emergencies

- How will you manage if someone has an accident and needs immediate medical attention?
- If one of your workers is likely to be 'on call' is there sufficient cover in the event that he/she is called away?

Gender balance

- If you have a mixed group of children and young people it is ideal to try to ensure that you have both male and female workers present. This becomes increasingly important for older age groups.

Recommended minimum ratios

The following table represents recommended minimum ratios of adults to children. This should be your starting point in calculating appropriate ratios for groups and activities. If any special factors emerge within a risk assessment you should increase the recommended ratio in order to ensure the safety of the children and young people.

Remember that in calculating the ratios of workers to children you should not include young leaders who are under the age of 18 among your number of adult workers.

Age range	Recommended minimum ratio for INDOOR activities	Recommended minimum ratio for OUTDOOR activities
0 – 2 years	1:3 (minimum 2)	1:3 (minimum 2)
3 years	1:4 (minimum 2)	1:4 (minimum 2)
4 - 7 years	1:8 (minimum 2)	1:6 (minimum 2)
8 - 12 years	2 adults for up to 20 children(preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children	2 adults for up to 15 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children
13 years and over	2 adults for up to 20 children(preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children	2 adults for up to 20 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children

What happens when ratios fall below the required level?

The ratio of adults to children can fall below the optimum level in two different types of situation.

- In a one-off situation where a member of the leadership team is unavailable for one session and it is not possible to arrange alternative cover.
- On a more permanent basis, where it is not possible to find sufficient volunteers to staff a group at the desired level.

The one-off situation

When the first of these scenarios arises the remaining leaders should:

- Determine whether it is safe to continue with the planned programme
 - Are there ways of working that would reduce the risks?
 - If this is a week when additional staff were required because of the nature of the planned activities should the activities be changed?
- If children's and young people's safety is being put at unacceptable risk, then the event should be cancelled
- Write a report detailing:
 - the circumstances that led to the reduced staffing levels
 - the actions that were taken to reduce the risk to the children and young people.
- Give a copy of the report to the Designated Person for Safeguarding

If the reduced staffing will lead to one adult being alone with a child or a group of children or young people, then (if there is time) the event should be cancelled. If there is an emergency that leads to this situation, then the worker who is left alone should follow the practice outlined in the Code of Behaviour. (see page 26)

The on-going situation

When insufficient volunteers can be found to staff a particular group at the optimum level a careful assessment of the situation should be made to see if the risks can be reduced or managed in a sustainable way.

- Are there ways of adapting the programme that would reduce the level of risk?
- Could the group meet at the same time as another group so that in the event of an emergency additional staff cover is available on the premises?
- Could a cap be placed on the number of children or young people attending the group to keep the ratio within manageable limits?

Any decision to run a group with staff ratios that are below the recommended level should be taken by the charity trustees of the church. The decision should be recorded in their minutes together with

- the reasons why they believe that this decision is justified
- any measures that have been taken to minimise the risks to children and young people.

In no circumstances should the trustees plan to continue running a group where only one adult will be present with children and young people.

The following points set out our general principles and 'codes of behaviour' in terms of dignity, respect, attitudes and ethos; both for groups in general and in particular volunteers and workers.

Specific guidance is given elsewhere in this Policy relating to workers avoiding instances when they are alone with children and young people; appropriate and inappropriate physical contact with children and young people; abuse of trust; and electronic communication.

- ✓ Treat all children and young people with respect and dignity, in attitudes, words and actions
- ✓ Use age appropriate language and tone of voice. Be aware of your own body language and the effect you are having on the individual child or young person
- ✓ Listen well to children and young people. Be careful not to assume you know what a child or young person is thinking or feeling. Listen to what is spoken and how it is said. At the same time, observe the body language to better understand what is being said
- ✓ Do not engage in any of the following:
 - invading the privacy of children or young people when they are using the toilet or showering
 - rough games involving physical contact between a leader and a child or young person
 - sexually provocative games
 - making sexually suggestive comments about or to a child or young person, even in 'fun'
 - scapegoating, belittling, ridiculing, or rejecting a child or young person.
- ✓ When it is necessary to control and discipline children and young people, this should be done without using physical punishment. (A situation may, however, arise where a child or young person needs to be restrained in order to protect them or a third person.)
- ✓ Make sure another adult is present if, for example, a young child has soiled their underclothes and needs to be thoroughly washed. If possible, the child's own parent or carer should be called in to carry out such a task.
- ✓ Do not respond to, or encourage, excessive attention-seeking that is overtly sexual or physical in nature.
- ✓ Workers should not normally plan to be alone with children and young people

A key component in developing safe practice with children and young people is to work in partnership with parents/carers. When children and young people are in the care of church groups, activities and organisations it is important:

- to have the consent of the parent/carer
- to have a point of contact in the event of an emergency
- to know key information about the child or young person that may impact on their wellbeing
- to provide clear information to parents/carers about the group and activities the child or young person is involved in and the safeguarding policy of the church

We make use of Consent Forms (either online or a paper version), and will ask for additional consent for events or activities that are 'out of the ordinary' in terms of the regular and normally expected routine.

The details given on the consent form will be made available to the leader of the group or activity each time the group or activity meets so that the contact information and medical information etc. is readily available in the event of unforeseen circumstances or an emergency.

Any information given on Consent Forms is held in accordance with the church's Data Protection Policy. In complying with data protection legislation, we seek to ensure that the information retained is accurate and that information is held only while the information is necessary and relevant.

This means we seek to actively keep records of children and young people up-to-date:

- We require parents/carers to complete the consent form annually, ensuring that the contact information is accurate and that any changes in a child's medical condition, etc. are updated
- the records of any children and young people who have stopped attending will be deleted.
- Information given on Consent Forms will be treated in accordance with the European legislation - GDPR.

- One of the marks of an organisation that is able to respond well to concerns about the welfare of children and young people is that there is a well-defined structure of supervision of those working with children and young people.
- Please note that the word 'supervision' is used here in the general sense of defining a working relationship in which one person is accountable to another rather than literally being present while the person is undertaking their task. We use the term 'close supervision' to define this latter situation.
- Organisations where there is no accountability structure leave themselves open to situations where workers become casual about safeguarding matters and put children and young people, or themselves, at risk. These organisations are also very attractive to those who are intent on finding opportunities to harm children and young people as their behaviour is less likely to be recognised at an early stage. Organisations where those given leadership responsibilities know that it is their duty to maintain proper standards in safeguarding and to address inappropriate behaviour are much more likely to sustain a culture in which the welfare of children and young people is a priority.
- All new volunteers and workers will need to be supervised more closely until we are sure that they are working safely and within this Safeguarding Policy.
- We encourage and support each other in the habit of helping one another in developing best practice. Without being intrusive, we seek to help one another maintain the culture of good practice that is the key to safeguarding children and young people.
- Safeguarding issues should be regularly on the agenda of meetings of children's and young people's leaders in the church so that all workers are reminded of the need for vigilance. It is good practice that regular meetings of all workers take place to share thoughts about the children and young people and the activities that are running. This helps to give encouragement and to exchange concerns about individuals.
- A well-defined structure of accountability will help to ensure that if one of the workers is behaving inappropriately that behaviour will be identified and reported promptly to the Children's Ministry Leader and/or Youth Ministry Leader **and** Designated Person for Safeguarding. All workers will know who they should speak to in the first instance when they see someone behaving inappropriately.

theBARN BIDFORD will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children.

Why recruitment procedures?

One of the greatest privileges entrusted to a church in its mission and outreach is that of sharing the love of God with children and young people – passing on the gospel of life and hope to the next generation. For this reason alone it is important that the local church should have good procedures in place to ensure that the right people are appointed to share in this task, and that those people are then trained and supported.

The need to safeguard children and young people only adds to the importance of adopting a robust appointment process and good support structures for those working with children and young people. Not least it is vital to ensure that inappropriate people are prevented from working with children and young people in the life of the church. To work with children and young people is not a right but a privilege and the need for safety is paramount as we seek to give children and young people the best experience we can of Christian living.

Once appointed it is also important that all of those who work with children and young people in the life of the church continue to receive training in the church's safeguarding policy and procedures, and are properly supervised and supported in their work.

It is important to have very clear procedures in place for the appointment of those who work with children and young people. The kinds of situations that churches should avoid are as follows:

- A notice is given out in the church meeting that a Kids Church teacher is urgently required. Someone volunteers, and at the end of the meeting they are asked if they can begin the following Sunday.
- A friend of one of the youth club leaders starts attending the youth club with them and somehow drifts into being part of the leadership team, with no formal appointment process.
- A new member has transferred their membership from another church. When visited for church membership they say that they have worked with children in their previous church and would be keen to get involved. The visitors decide that they should strike while the iron is hot and introduce the new member to the leader of the mid-week children's club. They join the leadership team two weeks later.
- Someone offers to work with children and young people. An enhanced DBS Disclosure is obtained. References are taken up and an informal interview is conducted. However, no job description is ever written and no induction is given into the church's safeguarding policy. After a few weeks the worker begins to organise additional activities for the young people in their group, away from the church premises and with no other adult involvement.

These are examples of poor practice in churches that can potentially put children and young people at risk.

Good recruitment practice has been identified as one of the key measures that organisations should adopt if they are serious about safeguarding children and young people. In his report on the Soham murders, Sir Michael Richard stated, *"The harsh reality is that if a sufficiently devious person is*

determined to seek out opportunities to work their evil, no one can guarantee that they will be stopped. Our task is to make it as difficult as possible for them to succeed..." Such vigilance is as necessary in the local church as in any other organisation working with children and young people.

Support, Supervision & Training of Leaders & Workers

THEBARN BIDFORD will ensure all workers (volunteers and paid staff) are, supported and supervised in their roles as well as receive ongoing training in both Safeguarding matters, as well as how to grow as a leader in children's and youth ministry. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with adults at risk.

The Disclosure and Barring Service is a government agency which provides information about employees' and volunteers' criminal records history, so that employers are able to make safer recruitment decisions. The DBS check if an individual has any criminal convictions, if they are barred from working with children or adults at risk and if the police hold any other relevant information about that person. The DBS used to be known as the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). CRB checks have now been replaced by DBS checks. All applications to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for Enhanced DBS Disclosures have to be submitted by a Registered Body or an Umbrella Body that is recognised by the DBS.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain are using Due Diligence Checking Ltd (DDC).

For more information please visit the DDC website, <https://www.ddc.uk.net/baptists/>

Who needs to be checked?

Workers who have specific roles or duties with children or adults at risk may need to be DBS checked. This covers both paid workers and volunteers.

- A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.
- An adult at risk is defined as anyone aged 18 or over who due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care of or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation.

Is there a minimum age for a DBS check?

Yes, only individuals aged 16 years and over can be subject to a DBS check.

Can a joint DBS check for children and adults at risk be applied for?

Yes, a DBS check can be completed for someone working with children, adults at risk or both groups. This is useful if the specific role involves working with both children and adults at risk, or if the applicant has two separate roles, one with each demographic.

Do I need to pay for my DBS check?

If you are a volunteer at THEBARN BIDFORD then the DBS check is free. However, if you are working in a paid capacity a charge will due.

All churches in membership with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and of local Associations are able to apply for Enhanced DBS Disclosures through DDC Ltd. The Baptist Union of Great Britain meet all of the processing costs for DBS checks for BUGB churches, through a national umbrella arrangement with DDC Ltd. The checks themselves are free of charge for voluntary workers and £44 for paid staff and ministers.

Applying for a DBS check is a relatively straightforward process and doesn't take too long.

The main DBS Verifier is **Richard 'Perce' Pirson**; who'll be able to help you through the process of applying online and explain what documents/evidence will be needed to complete the application and verification process (If you are unable to access the procedure electronically, there is a paper system; speak to Perce).

At theBARN BIDFORD we require everyone working with children, young people and adults at risk to complete a DBS check. This will take place when you begin volunteering or helping in these areas of service and ministry. Similarly, we require these checks to be renewed every 3-5 years.

What do I need to do?

Step 1: Starting the Checking Process

Make contact with Perce, our DBS Verifier who oversees this whole process on behalf of theBARN BIDFORD.

If you (the applicant) are considering volunteering or serving on a team working with children, young people, adults at risk, or as a Leader/Trustee or Staff Member at theBARN BIDFORD, you will need a DBS Check. Your team leader may have already initiated the process and indicated you will need a DBS check.

To initiate online DBS checks, all we require is a name, email address and some basic contact details. The applicant will then be sent an email, providing them with log-in information and a link to our online applicant area. The email also provides some basic information to the applicant to identify ourselves and our relationship with you as the Client. The applicant will also be provided with a point of contact for any queries for the process.

If you are unable to access the internet from home, Perce is available to guide anyone through the process either at church, or at a mutually convenient time.

Step 2: Complete the Online Form

The applicant logs into the secure applicant area, where they can complete their online disclosure application form. Our interactive online DBS form will ensure that they enter all the required information, check it is in the correct format and to the right level of detail.

Where information requirements are complex, the applicant receives clear instructions on the form, and useful tips at the point of need. Where the form requires input that meets certain criteria, our online form validates the data, and if the data is incorrectly formatted, error messages clearly label the mistake.

Once the online form is complete, the applicant can nominate the documents that they will use to support their application. These documents need to corroborate the details that have been entered on the form. Once the application is ready to proceed to the document checking stage, the applicant will be issued with clear instructions on where to take their documents, or who to contact to facilitate the next step in the process. This information can be edited by the 'Document Checker' (i.e. Perce). This enables the applicant to reach the next stage in the process.

Step 3 : Checking Original Documents

On completion of the online form, the applicant brings his or her documents to a nominated 'Document Checker' (Perce).

- [What documents are required for a criminal record check?](#)

With our system for online DBS checks and paper checks, you can track the progress of applications, and ensure that the process is running smoothly. As an application passes to the next stage, the application status is updated, to ensure you have the latest information at your fingertips. We also have the option of email alerts at certain points in the process, to provide further updates as requested.

Step 4: Submission of a Completed and Verified Form

Once the documents are verified, the online DBS checks can be submitted to DDC. When DCC receive a completed form, it will be reviewed by a fully-trained and authorised 'Countersignatory', prior to submission to the DBS. The applications are queued into 'batches' after being checked, which are sent to the DBS several times per day using the DBS secure connection. All information exchanges with the DBS are fully logged, so every action is traceable in the event of a query. The DBS will issue a receipt for the accepted application and confirm that it is in progress. On the very rare occurrence of an error with an application we are informed electronically by the DBS, and can resubmit once the issue has been resolved.

Step 5: Receiving Disclosures

Once the DBS have processed the application they will return the results to DDC Ltd. The applicant and the verifying team at theBARN BIDFORD will receive notification that the DBS check has been completed and any relevant information contained on that Disclosure.

All information received is held securely and confidentially. If the DBS check returns 'clear', the Verifying Team will let the appropriate leaders know. Your group/team leader will contact you to discuss further and plan your role and ministry with the group/team.

In the event that a Disclosure contains content that needs consideration this will be shared with other key people on a need to know basis (which may include the Designated Safeguarding Person, the Pastor(s), the Children's Ministry Leader and/or the Youth Ministry Leader). We will talk with you further and make an appropriate decision.

For any questions relating to the DBS process, please speak to our DBS Verifier, Perce.

Storage and Access

Disclosure Information must never be kept on an applicant's personal file. It must be stored separately in a secure, lockable, non-portable cabinet, with access strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

Handling

In accordance with Section 124 of the Police Act 1997, Disclosure Information is only passed to those who are authorised to receive it in the course of their duties. A record should be kept of all those to whom Disclosures or Disclosure Information has been revealed and it is a criminal offence to pass this information to anyone who is not entitled to receive it.

Usage

Disclosure Information must only be used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's full consent has been given.

Retention

Once a recruitment (or other relevant) decision has been made, Disclosure Information should not be kept for any longer than is absolutely necessary. This is generally for a period of up to six months, to allow for the consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints. If, in very exceptional circumstances, it is considered necessary to keep Disclosure Information for longer than six months, consultation should be made with the Baptist Union and/or the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS). Advice can then be given to the Data Protection and Human Rights of the individual. The above conditions regarding safe storage and strictly controlled access would still apply in these circumstances.

DBS Customer Services

customerservices@dbb.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 0200 190

Disposal

Once the retention period has lapsed, Disclosure Information must be suitably destroyed by secure means, i.e. shredding, pulping or burning. Whilst awaiting destruction, Disclosure Information must **not** be kept in any insecure receptacle (e.g. waste bin or confidential waste sack). No copies of the Disclosure Information may be kept, in any form. However, a record can be kept of the date of the issue of a Disclosure, the name of the subject, the type of Disclosure requested, the position for which the Disclosure was requested, the unique reference number of the Disclosure and the details of the recruitment decision taken.

As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, theBarn Bidford undertake to treat all applicants for positions fairly. They undertake not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information received.

We welcome people to serve the church on the basis of the right mix of talent, skills, character, potential and call of God, including those with criminal records.

A Disclosure is requested as part of the process put in place to determine the suitability or unsuitability of an applicant.

A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to a person serving with children and young people. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of the offences.

In order to protect the confidentiality of those with criminal records we will access Disclosures through Due Diligence Checking (DDC). We invite the Baptist Union's Child Protection Advisory Panel or Churches Child Protection Advisory Service to advise us in the appointment process when necessary, and we agree to act on their advice for the protection of children, young people and a

Summary of Data Protection Principles

A key part of our Safeguarding Policy is gaining Parental Consent and Permission (including relevant medical, allergy and personal contact information). As such, the information we need and store for safe practice falls under the legislation described in the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Data Protection Act 1998 is designed to provide privacy protection for individuals about whom personal, identifying data is kept. It lays down 'best practice' principles for those who keep the data and it applies to paper records as well as computerised information. The Act covers the whole of the UK, and all organisations, including churches, must comply with the rules on processing data.

Data Protection Principles

- Personal data shall be held only for one or more specified and lawful purposes and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or purposes.
- Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose for which it is processed.
- Personal data shall be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
- Personal data processed for any purpose shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose.
- Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subject under the Data Protection Act.
- Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of the data.

Guidelines and Good Practice: Complying with Data Protection

- The personal data we collect is relevant and necessary to follow our Safeguarding Policy.
- No personal data should be obtained or held unless the individual has given consent.
 - In the case of sensitive data, (defined as race, political opinion, religious belief, trade union membership, physical or mental health, sexuality, criminal offences) specific consent must be obtained i.e. the individual must be informed that this type of data is being held, told the reason for it and give permission for its use.
 - Note that photographs count as sensitive data since they may reveal information about the subject's race. Permission should always be obtained to keep a copy or use a photograph of an individual.
- The data we obtain and store will not be used for other purposes, nor will it be shared with third parties or used for commercial use.
- theBARN BIDFORD will only collect information about individuals which is necessary and relevant for the purpose intended. If data is given or obtained which is excessive for the purpose intended, it should be immediately deleted or destroyed.
- If data is kept for a considerable length of time it must be reviewed and if necessary updated. No data should be kept unless it is reasonable to assume it is accurate.
- There should be regular reviews of files containing data to ensure that it is not kept for longer than required for the particular purpose.
- theBARN BIDFORD should always consider the rights of the individual in respect of their data. In summary, these are
 - that consent should be obtained if data is to be kept and used for any purpose;
 - that individuals are entitled to know what data is kept about them

- that no personal data will be disclosed to anyone outside or inside the church who does not strictly need to know, without the individual's consent.
- THEBARN BIDFORD makes every effort to adhere to the EUs directive – GDPR and as such protects the data held centrally on our ChurchSuite system.

Further Information on the Data Protection Act 1998 can be obtained from:

Information Commissioner

<https://ico.org.uk/>

Data protection, Human Rights and Safeguarding

Where disclosing information might place a child at risk, then child protection considerations take precedence over data protection.

In certain circumstances the Data Protection Act allows for disclosure of information without the consent of the subject, including for the prevention or detection of crime, or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The need to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk from harm should be considered within these parameters and this is emphasised in the government document, “Working Together to Safeguard Children” (1999). Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights also makes provision for the disclosure of information in connection with 'the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others and for the prevention of disorder or crime.... Disclosure should be appropriate for the purpose and only to the extent necessary to achieve that purpose'.

Children have the right to be protected from harm. Information relating to concerns that a child is at risk of significant harm should therefore not be withheld on the basis that it might be unlawful under these Acts. If in doubt, the information should not be disclosed to anyone, especially the parent/carer, but contact should be made with Social Services, The Baptist Union or CCPAS for advice.

Appointing Volunteers & Workers in the Children & Youth Teams at THEBARN BIDFORD

THEBARN BIDFORD will normally seek volunteers for groups and teams from within the fellowship and congregation, and normally, people who are well known to us. If someone is new to the church, we'd usually expect someone to worship with us regularly for at least six months before joining a team. If we make a request for volunteers and helpers, those who respond will be required to follow the standard process of recruiting workers into any team (see below). We also often identify people to approach to undertake particular roles. The 'personal approach' can often be a more effective way of finding and attracting the right volunteers for positions.

It is perfectly acceptable for procedures to be more informal for churches than it would be for those organisations which are seeking volunteers from the general public. Informality should not be confused with being casual about the importance of safeguarding children and young people.

The process we follow includes...

- Talking face to face with the team leader of the group to discuss the role (see below)
- Talking with the appropriate Children's or Youth Ministry Leader (both the person willing to volunteer and the team leader)
- Liaise with Pastors
- Obtain a DBS Check/Certificate
- We may take up references
- The Children's Ministry / Youth Ministry Leader will approve or decline the appointment of the volunteer
- Appoint for a probationary period
- The volunteer to sign an undertaking to work within the agreed safeguarding policy and procedures
- Provide an induction and initial training, and agree to attend a Safeguarding Training Event.

Note: a leader should not be involved in the appointment of a close family member. In these circumstances, the Designated Safeguarding Person (or a Safeguarding Officer) will be involved in the process and make the decision about recruitment and appointment.

Talking through the role

Talking through the role with the team leader (and with the Ministry Leader) will help you understand the commitments, responsibilities, opportunities and what's expected in serving in a particular group or team. Good communication always helps and prevents problems down the line.

A clear understanding of the role is important for safeguarding for the following reasons:

- research has shown that children are better safeguarded in organisations where those who are working with children and young people have clearly defined responsibilities and roles.
- volunteers are given confidence that the church takes its work with children and young people seriously when they are given a clear role, knowing to whom they are accountable and for whom they are responsible

Normally this will include:

- the aims of the group or team the person will be working for
- a summary of the responsibilities which will be involved

- the time commitment anticipated (including, setting up, clearing up, preparation during the week, leaders meeting, training)
- who the person is accountable to
- who the person is responsible for
- where appropriate a statement that the person appointed will be required to apply for an Enhanced DBS Disclosure
- a statement that the person appointed will be expected to work within the policy and procedures of the church's Safeguarding Children Policy
- a statement that the person will be required to attend church Safeguarding Training

We will 'interview' every candidate for a position working with children and young people in the church, and cover specific questions. It is important to note that we will treat all candidates in the same way, however well they are known (see below).

The application process will request the following information:

- a full history of work with children and young people, whether paid or voluntary, with dates
- a full history of church involvement (current and previous), with dates
- reasons why the candidate wishes to work with children and young people
- a statement of the gifts and qualities the candidate thinks they would bring to the role
- a signed declaration that there is nothing in the candidate's past that would call into question their suitability to work with children and young people
- names and contact details of two referees

We will explain to every candidate and provide:

- a statement about the church's safeguarding policy and the need to apply for an Enhanced DBS Disclosure and the candidate's consent to this.

This application process is important for safeguarding purposes because:

- it reinforces the value that we place on work with children and the seriousness with which the church takes the appointment of workers
- it gives a clear signal to any who are intent on abusing the trust placed in them that the church is vigilant about the safety and protection of children and young people
- it provides important information about a candidate's history of work with children and young people and their motivation. This information can be followed up if necessary. If, for example, someone has moved from church to church, each time getting involved in children's and young people's work for only a relatively short time, this is an issue that should be taken up in the interview. Large gaps in the history may prompt questions about the person's background.

The young leaders of today are the adult leaders of tomorrow. They can be valuable members of any youth or children's team in the local church, providing valuable time, energy and ideas for your group.

If we are going to encourage young leaders we need to ensure they are kept safe, that the children and young people in their care are safe and that they are well supervised and cared for. Often young leaders are from a similar peer group to those with whom they are working, so boundaries become blurred.

Young Leaders Under 16 & 18 Years of Age

If someone is under 16 they aren't barred from helping in groups with the ministry of theBARN BIDFORD. For comparison, this also happens outside the church when children from secondary schools obtain a work experience placement in an infant school or nursery. However, we recognise that anyone under the age of 16 is a child, and as such these helpers will be responsible to a named worker and never be in a position where they are providing unsupervised care of children. For example, they should not be counted as a 'worker' when considering staff/child ratios. In these circumstances the full recruitment procedure need not be applied. A DBS check would not normally be required.

A similar procedure could be used for other occasional helpers. Care should be taken to ensure that this process is not used to avoid proper checks or as a backdoor recruitment process. These arrangements are essentially about providing work experience for an individual, not as a means for meeting the needs of THEBARN BIDFORD.

In law, young leaders under the age of 18 are children and cannot be treated as adult members of a team. However, neither should they be managed in the same way as the children and young people with whom they are working.

As a church we will make decisions about how involved they will be in planning, running and evaluating the various aspects of your programme depending on the young person, their age, background and maturity. This will also depend on how much (or little) they want to do, what they are capable of, and how many other adult helpers you have. In general we will adopt a step-by-step approach to their involvement, perhaps beginning with some closely supervised activities, and then progressively increasing the amount of involvement and responsibility they are given.

Training and mentoring are encouraged, to ensure that the young leader is helped to develop and hone skills, attitudes and experience. We have a duty to make their time as young leaders both enjoyable and rewarding – they must never be 'just another pair of hands'.

Here are some practical considerations when working with young leaders:

- A young leader must be closely supervised by an adult leader at all times, and never given sole responsibility for a group of young people or children
- When considering ratios of staff to children or young people, the young leader needs to be counted as a child, not a leader
- The Safeguarding Children Policy applies to a young leader just as it does to any other person
- The permission of parents or carers needs to be sought for the young leader just as you would for any other person under 18 years of age

- If the young leader accompanies you on a residential activity ideally they should have separate sleeping accommodation to both the adult leadership team and the children or young people they are working with.

Careful judgements will need to be made regarding the appointment of young leaders who are under the age of 18. Some may need to be appointed under the full procedures of the church's Safeguarding Children Policy, including applying for an Enhanced DBS Disclosure. For others this will not be appropriate.

The general rule of thumb is that, where a young leader has leadership responsibilities in a group to which they already belong and so is exercising leadership among their peers, it will not be necessary to appoint under the full procedures. When a young leader is appointed to another group, the full safeguarding appointment procedures should be followed.

Young leaders under the age of 18 will not need to be appointed under these procedures and therefore will not need to apply for an Enhanced DBS Disclosure if:

- they are asked to take increasing leadership responsibility in a group in which they are a member; and they are always exercising leadership by assisting the adult workers and leaders of that group.
- Young leaders under the age of 18 will not need to be appointed under these procedures and therefore will not need to apply for an Enhanced DBS Disclosure if they are part of a peer-led group and emerge within that group as leaders.
- Young leaders under the age of 18 will need to be appointed under these procedures and therefore will need to apply for an Enhanced DBS Disclosure if they are appointed to work in a regulated activity with children and young people in a group to which they do not belong.

Young Adult Leaders 18 Years & Over

Leaders aged 18 years and over are adults. They will therefore need to go through the full safeguarding appointment procedures agreed by the church. Care will need to be taken when a young leader turns 18 that their new status is recognised and that the appropriate procedures are followed, including DBS Disclosure, references and training in the church's safeguarding policy and procedures.

However young adults should still be treated with special care as they develop their leadership skills and learn new responsibilities. If they are part of a peer group within the church, the boundaries can become blurred if sometimes they are leaders and sometimes members of that peer group. Ideally young adult leaders should not be given supervisory responsibility for the age group directly below them.

Two areas of the code of behaviour will be particularly relevant to this age group:

Electronic Communication

The use of electronic communication needs to have special consideration here as young adult leaders are more likely to be in touch with young people by text and social networking sites. It is inappropriate to stop this altogether, however we need to ensure they are not putting themselves or others at risk. (See below)

Abuse 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.

It should be noted that the principles regarding peer-led groups outlined in the previous section is equally valid for 18 year olds. In the example of the peer-led cell group, an 18 year old leader who emerges from within the group would not need to be appointed under the church's safeguarding procedures. (For further information see p.44)

If theBARN BIDFORD is going to receive help from volunteers from overseas, for example as part of a mission activity, we will try as far as possible to apply the same principles as we would in appointing a worker locally. We will aim to follow the following procedures whenever using volunteers from overseas.

Before the volunteer arrives in the UK:

- Each volunteer should complete and return a form similar to the church's normal application form for volunteer workers
- The sending church or organisation should be asked whether they have a Safeguarding Policy in place, and if that includes a DBS type checking system. If they do, then we will ask whether each member of the visiting team has been verified and comes with the blessing and commendation of the leadership team of that organisation or church. It is important to ask specifically if any of the visiting team have any previous history, or if there is any concern relating to any team member. If there isn't a Safeguarding system in place, then theBARN BIDFORD will follow necessary steps in Risk Assessment (including group activities, contact with children, young people, and vulnerable adults, hosting and accommodation consideration etc.). We will also make sure there is adequate Safeguarding training provided for the visiting team members (including Good Practice, and working through cultural differences).

Once the volunteer or team has arrived in the UK and before they start work with children and young people, as part of the orientation and induction programme, the volunteers should be introduced to the church's safeguarding policy and procedures.

Please note that these procedures apply only when those from overseas will be working with children and young people from the UK. If adults from overseas only have responsibility for children and young people that they bring with them in their own party, these procedures will not need to be followed.

Example Scenarios

A group from the USA comes to the UK in order to help a church run their holiday club. The holiday club runs for a week and the Americans take responsibility for leading the programme of teaching. The work they are taking part in is regulated activity and for a period which meets the intensity criteria. They are working with children from the UK; therefore, the procedures outlined above should be followed.

A young people's choir visits the UK from Russia. They tour and perform in a number of churches over a three-week period. Because the leaders of the group only take responsibility for the young people they bring from Russia the procedures outlined above will not need to be followed.

Relationships between children or young people and their leaders take many different forms, but all of them can be described as 'relationships of trust'. The leader is someone in whom the child or young person has placed a degree of trust. The trust may be because the leader has an educational role, is a provider of leisure activities, or even is a significant adult friend.

In every case, however, that relationship is not one of equal partners and there is the potential for the trust to be abused by the leader, who is in a position of power over the child or young person. It is important for all those in positions of trust to understand the power this can give them over those they care for and thus the responsibility they must exercise as a consequence of this relationship. It is now acknowledged that the imbalance of power that means that it is wrong for a teacher to develop a romantic relationship with a sixth former or for a doctor to enter into a romantic relationship with a patient, can exist in other nonprofessional contexts. All voluntary organisations are now expected to have a policy which sets out the boundaries of such relationships. Such policies are intended to protect young people over the age of consent but under 18 years of age where a relationship of trust with an adult looking after them exists.

It is always wrong for a leader to enter into a sexual relationship with a young person. Whilst young people aged 16 or 17 can legally consent to some types of sexual activity, they may still be emotionally immature. Their vulnerability could be exploited, either deliberately or unwittingly. Where a relationship of trust exists between a young person and a youth leader it does not make any difference whether or not the sexual relationship is consensual. The imbalance of power makes it an abuse of trust, and therefore wrong.

However abuse of trust does not only take place when a relationship develops into a sexual relationship. It is also not acceptable for a leader to form a romantic relationship with a young person with whom they have a relationship of trust. Such a romantic relationship (even if consensual) would not be a relationship of equal partners - the leader is always in a position of power over the young person and exploitation is almost inevitable, even if unintentional.

These principles apply irrespective of sexual orientation. It is important also to recognise that women as well as men may abuse a position of trust. The inappropriate nature of romantic relationships is obvious where the leader is a mature adult, but less so when the leader is also a young person (e.g. a 19 year old leader with a 16 year old member of the group). However, if such a romantic relationship did occur, there would still be a confusion of the roles of leader and romantic partner. Normally in these circumstances the leader should cease either the relationship of trust or the romantic relationship with the young person.

Policies should make it clear that those taking on work or already working with young people must be aware that they are in a position of trust and the responsibilities this brings with it. The policy should:

- aim to protect the young person from an unequal and potentially damaging relationship
- aim to protect the person in a position of trust by preventing him/her from entering into such a relationship deliberately or accidentally by providing clear and enforceable guidance on what behaviour is acceptable

The Government-recommended good practice establishes that a clear statement be made that any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop between the person in a position of trust and the individual or individuals in their care should be avoided; and that any sexual

relationship within a relationship of trust is unacceptable so long as the relationship of trust continues.

For further information see, [Caring for Young People and the Vulnerable? Guidance for Preventing Abuse of Trust](#) (Home Office 2003).

We will think carefully when appointing young leaders and give careful consideration when appointing young leaders to lead a peer group, or one immediately below their own.

Discipline is the education of a person's character. It includes nurturing, training, instruction, chastisement, verbal rebuke, teaching and encouragement. It brings security, produces character, prepares for life and is an expression of God's love for an individual. (Hebrews 12:5-12 & Proverbs 22:6)

- Ask God for wisdom, discernment and understanding for the children in your care.
- Work on each individual child's positives, do not compare a child with another, but encourage and affirm them, giving them responsibility for simple tasks.
- Build healthy relationships with children and be a good role model by setting an example. You can't expect children to observe the ground rules if you break them yourself.
- Take care to give quieter and well behaved children attention and resist allowing demanding children to take all your time and energy.
- Be consistent in what you say and ensure that other team members know what you have said. This avoids manipulation.
- If children are bored they often misbehave, so review your programme regularly.
- **NEVER** smack or hit a child and don't shout. Change voice tone if necessary.
- Discipline out of love, NEVER in anger. (Call on support from other leaders if you feel so angry you may deal with the situation unwisely.)
- Lay down ground rules e.g. no swearing, racism or calling each other names, respect for property, and make sure the children understand what action will be taken if not kept.
- Every child is unique and will respond in different ways to different forms of discipline. It follows, therefore, that each child should be dealt with on an individual basis.

Some children have a tendency to be disruptive in a group. Give them a chance, warn them and only separate if they are disruptive as a last resort.

- Have a disruptive child sit right in front of you or get a helper to sit next to them.
- Be pro-active and encourage helpers to be pro-active rather than waiting to be told to deal with a situation.
- Take a disruptive child to one side and engage with them, challenging them to change, whilst encouraging their strengths.
- Remedial action can be taken against a constantly disruptive child. They can be warned that you may speak to their parents/carers about their behaviour, they may be sent outside the room (under supervision), back into the church service or, after consultation with a church leader and advising the parent/carer, be banned from attending the group for a period of time.
- If a child's behaviour continues to be disruptive despite measures taken above, seek advice and guidance from a leader.
- Pray with the other workers before the session and take time to debrief before you leave.
- Consult and discuss any problems, challenges etc. with the Pre-School Pastor (for ages 2-4), Children's Pastor (for ages 4-11) or the Youth Ministry Leader (ages 11-17)

Guidelines for Appropriate Physical Contact with Children and Young People

It is hard to conceive how you can be a nurturing, caring worker with children and young people without some physical contact happening at least occasionally! For example, if a child or young person is distressed it is natural to put an arm round their shoulder. It could even be thought of as abusive not to respond by touching a child in such circumstances. However, we must be conscious that what to most is an innocent touch may have another, more sinister meaning for children who have experienced abuse. We must also be aware that some people use the opportunity of physical contact with others not as a way of conveying love and support, but as a means of satisfying their own cravings.

The following guidelines are helpful when considering whether or not touch is appropriate in any given situation.

- For whose benefit is this taking place?
 - Is it for the sake of the child or young person or is it for your own benefit?
- If no-one else is present, it is always advisable to avoid physical contact.
- Use physical contact in a way that conveys appropriate concern but in a way that is least likely to be misconstrued. For example, an arm around the shoulder standing by the side of a child or young person may be more appropriate than a full 'hug'.
- Remember that not all express friendship or affection in the same way and some people (children included) find excessive touching an infringement of their personal space.
- If you find that the child or young person is cringing or responding in a negative way to being touched, then stop immediately and find an alternative, non-tactile way to convey your concern.
- Workers should be prepared to be accountable to fellow workers for their use of touch and physical contact and should listen to the concerns of others if it is felt that boundaries are being crossed. They should be free to help each other by constructively challenging anything which could be misunderstood or misconstrued.
- When giving first aid (or applying sun cream etc), encourage the child to do what they can manage themselves, but consider the child's best interests and give appropriate help where necessary.
- Team members should monitor one another in the area of physical contact.
- Concerns about abuse should always be reported.

Children are continually growing developmentally. As such, they don't act or behave as mature adults. This is normal. Sometimes children and young people become angry, upset and disruptive. Occasionally their behaviour may endanger themselves or others. The Government has developed national standards in relation to early years and day care. The following guidelines and advice help us in our provision of services to children and young people.

If a child/young person is being disruptive:

- ✓ Ask them to stop.
- ✓ Speak to the child to establish the cause(s) of upset.
- ✓ Inform the child that they will be asked to leave if the behaviour continues.
- ✓ Warn the child that if they continue to be disruptive, this might result in longer-term exclusion from the group.

If a child/young person is harming him/herself, another person or property then

- One leader should escort the other children/young people present away from the area and situation where the disruption is occurring.
- At the same time, and with a second worker present, request the child/young person to STOP.
- If your request is ignored, you might need to warn the individual that you will consider calling for additional help, (e.g. their parent, or the Police) if they do not stop.
- In exceptional circumstances and with assistance, you might need to restrain the child/young person to prevent them harming themselves, others or property whilst you wait for the Police.

THEBARN BIDFORD will discuss with all volunteers and team members appropriate techniques and strategies of how to diffuse volatile situations.

Further advice can be given by the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry Leaders, as well as senior members of staff in local schools.

The workers involved should always record what happened as soon as possible after the incident. This should include the following:

- What activity was taking place?
- What might have caused the disruptive behaviour?
- The child's/young person's behaviour.
- What you said and how you and others responded.
- A list of others present who witnessed the incident.

A copy should be given to the appropriate Ministry Leader (Children or Youth), a copy retained by the worker involved, and a copy given to the Designated Safeguarding Person.

theBARN BIDFORD needs to be aware that children and young people who have a disability can be at greater risk of abuse. They will often require more help with personal care, such as washing, dressing, toileting, feeding, mobility etc., may have limited understanding and behave in a non-age appropriate way.

For example, a young person of 17 might behave in a manner more akin to a 2-3 year old, particularly in demanding cuddles or sitting on a worker's lap. Others experience difficulties in communication because they are partially sighted, or hearing impaired. Subsequently, they could be more reliant on physical contact for communication. Some may have severe learning difficulties. All these factors make it harder to uncover abuse when it is occurring and in also setting boundaries that take into account the needs of these young people.

There is therefore a need for extra vigilance, recognising that a worker may encounter the following difficulties:

- Children may not fully understand what is said to them, or may not be able to express themselves in ways that can be easily understood.
- The worker may not possess the appropriate personal communication skills (e.g. specialised spoken and non-verbal communication such as Makaton signs and symbols, British Sign Language, etc.).
- It can be hard to know if a child with a disability has been abused because of communication problems.

There are a number of reasons why a child with a disability is more vulnerable to abuse:

- Children with disabilities tend to have more physical contact than those without disabilities (i.e. therapists, care workers) and may require higher levels of personal care.
- The definition of what constitutes abuse is wider for children with disabilities. (This can include force-feeding, financial abuse, over-medication and segregation).
- Attitudes can play a part, for example, the belief that a child or young person with a disability can't be sexually abused because they are seen as a-sexual.

The church and other organisations have a pivotal role in empowering those with disabilities by:

- ✓ Teaching personal safety skills to those with disabilities.
- ✓ The church can encourage a child with a disability to take some control of his/her body (i.e. provide sex education and teaching about feelings; that some parts of our body are private and to differentiate between good and bad touches).

Sometimes children playing outside or wandering the streets, with no adult supervision, will want to join in with church activities (e.g. Messy Church, Kids Church) without the knowledge of their parents.

theBARN BIDFORD follows these guidelines in this scenario:

- ✓ On arrival, we will welcome the child/children and try to establish their name, age, address and telephone number. We will record their visit in a register.
- ✓ Ask the child/children if a parent/carer is aware where they are, and what time they are expected home. If this is before the session ends, the child should be encouraged to return home, unless permission to stay can be obtained from the parent/carer via a phone call. In any event suggest the child seeks the parent/carer's permission to return the following week.
- ✓ Link the visiting child with a regular attendee who can introduce them to the group and show them 'the ropes.'
- ✓ At the end of the meeting, on leaving, give the child a leaflet about the group with contact telephone numbers, etc., and perhaps a standard letter to the parent/carer inviting them to make contact if they wish.
- ✓ Without interrogating the child, you will need to find out as soon as possible whether they have any special needs, (e.g. medication), so that you can respond appropriately in an emergency.
- ✓ Keep a record of the visit (date and time, who were the leaders etc.).

Children's workers and leaders may need, or wish, to visit children and their families at home from time to time. The parents/carers may or may not attend church and it is important therefore that they have been given information about the group including contact telephone numbers. It may be useful for the church to issue formal identification in some circumstances.

Guidelines for visiting:

- ✓ Inform another worker or overall group leader of the proposed visit.
- ✓ Never enter a child's home if a parent/carer is absent.
- ✓ Keep a written record of the visit detailing the following:
 - Purpose
 - Time you arrived and left
 - Who was present?
 - What was discussed?

If the parent/carer is absent when the call is made, leave some means of identification and explanation for the visit that can be given to them if the child is home alone or with other children.

The invitation of a child to a worker's home must be done with the knowledge of the team and leadership and with the permission of the parent/carer.

Solitary visits by children to the leader's house should be discouraged and visits to leaders' houses should be made by groups of children rather than singly.

Giving lifts to children and young people is one of the areas where boundaries can become blurred in the life of the church community. Is the leader of a group offering a lift to a child to attend a meeting as part of her responsibility as an appointed leader in the church, or because she is a friend of the child's parents, or a relative of the child?

For the sake of clarity, it is better to work on the principle that whenever an appointed children's or youth worker gives a lift to children (other than their own children) to a church-run children's or young people's activity they should follow the procedures recommended by the church. It is important that the church and parents are clear about the nature of arrangements for offering lifts to children to and from church based activities. If the arrangements are informal, private arrangements made between parents the following procedures do not need to be applied.

However, if the transport arrangements are offered and made by the church or organisation, the procedures set out below should always be in place.

When children & young people are transported in cars

- Transporting Children & Young People Consent & Permission Forms must be obtained from the parent/carer before any lift is given (unless there are exceptional or emergency circumstances. (See Transporting Children and Young People Consent Form, p.110)
- The driver should hold a full driving licence and the vehicle should be road worthy (including a valid MOT certificate). All drivers are expected to observe speed limits and the Highway Code.
- Only those who have gone through the church's recruitment procedures for workers should transport children
- All drivers should have read this Safeguarding Policy and agree to abide by it
- Any journey should be carried with the knowledge of the group/team leader. If the team leader is the one driving, then the Children's Ministry Leader, Youth Ministry Leader or one of the Pastors should be informed.
- The driver should have fully comprehensive insurance which covers voluntary work (or in the case of a paid youth worker or children's worker, insurance that covers them for transporting others in the course of their employment).
- Seat belts should always be worn and the proper child seats and child restraints should be used for young children in accordance with the law
- If a volunteer driver who has not been appointed as a children's or young people's worker is used to transport children and young people on church activities, the driver should be appointed following the procedures outlined under the church's Safeguarding Children Policy.
- If parents transport children around e.g. to and from activities, ensure that all are made aware that such arrangements are the responsibility of the parents involved and not theBARN BIDFORD.
- theBARN BIDFORD will not allow people as drivers for children and young people when their DBS check shows a record of driving offences that suggests that the person may not be a safe driver.
- If a member of a youth group has become a newly qualified driver and is wanting to give lifts to other members of a youth group, this is considered a 'private' arrangement. However, we affirm the following good practice;

- If the arrangement is a 'one-off' lift, the group leader will attempt to make contact with the parents before of any young people are given a lift on order to check this is acceptable with their parent/carer.
- If lifts are to be given more regularly by a newly qualified driver, we will encourage each parent of these young people receiving lifts to speak personally to the newly qualified driver to clarify expectations and make sure they're happy with this arrangement.

Transport Best Practice and Guidelines

Vulnerable situations can be created when workers offer lifts to children and young people, either to take them to and from church activities or to take them on planned outings, especially given the semi-rural location of theBARN BIDFORD and that travelling to and from theBarn is a reality for many in the church.

The following guidelines are designed to clarify some of the challenges and mitigate the risks involved:

- Be careful and be wise. Don't take unnecessary risks.
- When travelling in groups with more than one vehicle it is good practice to insist children stay in the same groups on the out-going and return journey. This will avoid the confusion over whether a child has been transported home or at worst left behind.
- If travelling in convoy with cars and minibuses, please note that the maximum speed for a minibus is 50 mph on single carriageway roads, 60 mph on dual carriageways and 70 mph on motorways.
- At collection or dropping off points do not leave a child on their own. Make sure that children are collected by an appropriate adult. Similarly, make sure a child / young person is not left at the door of their home waiting to enter. Don't drive off until the door is open and they've entered the property.
- It is advisable to be aware of instances where it may be unwise for a particular driver to transport a particular child or young person e.g. where there has been a disagreement or where a child/young person has a 'crush' on a driver.
- If a driver is dropping a number of children/young people home, it is preferable, though sometimes impractical, to have more than one person over 18 years old in the vehicle. If possible, this other adult should be a worker/volunteer. If this person is also being given a lift (i.e. they are 18 and still part of a youth group), then they should be dropped off last. Please note that having two workers in a car does not itself fully guarantee protection for a child or adults.
- Parents/carers should be informed at what time to expect their child home
- Drivers should not spend unnecessary time alone in a car with a child or young person. If a child wants to talk to a driver about something and has waited until other children have been dropped off, the driver should explain that it isn't convenient to talk there and then, but arrange to meet the child/young person at a location where there are other adults around. Remember a child/young person may want to talk to the driver about a disclosure or an abusive situation.
- Make sure you're accountable and transparent in your decisions, actions and behaviour. As a driver, you might be alone with a child or young person for short periods in a vehicle (e.g. dropping off the last child). Good practice will include...
 - Be wise! If you're uncomfortable with any situation, contact another team member/leader to make alternative transport arrangements/provision.
 - Avoid being alone in the car with a child or young person.

- if the same group of children are regularly given lifts, consideration should be given to picking them up or dropping them off in a different order each week so that the same child is not always the first or the last to be picked up or dropped off
- if a child/young person is travelling alone in the car with a worker, the child should be asked to sit in the back seat of the car
- A helpful protocol to use: Let one of the other leaders know you'll be driving a child/young person in a vehicle alone. Make clear your plans, and agree to either phone or text when that young person has been safely dropped off. Keep a record of your arrangements.
- To reiterate, be careful and be wise. Don't take unnecessary risks.

If using a mini-bus or coach to transport children or young people

Many hiring organisations now ask for the driver to have a MIDAS certificate. MIDAS is the [Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme](#) organised by the Community Transport Association.

- Ensure that the mini-bus or coach is fitted with seat-belts on all of the seats and that seat-belts are always worn.
- Ensure that the number of children and adults does not exceed the capacity of the coach or mini-bus so that all can have an allocated seat with a seat-belt.
- The law no longer permits car drivers who passed their test after 1st January 1997 to drive mini-buses without passing a Public Service Vehicle (PSV) driving test or unless they are driving under a section 19 permit. This does not apply to licence holders who were over 21 years of age in 1997. Check what categories a worker is entitled to drive by examining their driving licence. Whilst there is no law forbidding young or inexperienced drivers from transporting young people, theBARN BIDFORD recommends that the driver should be 25 or over and have held a full driving licence for at least three years.

Talking and Listening to Children & Young People

Children and young people will often decide themselves who they want to talk to, having built up trust and when they might want to share anything of a personal nature or a disclosure. It is not uncommon for a child to test an adult out in some way before they are prepared to talk. Because of this, all adults, including the children's workers at theBARN BIDFORD, need to understand the importance of listening to children and responding appropriately.

It is important is to identify ways to communicate effectively to children/young people that they are valued, that what they say is important and that there are people who are happy and willing to listen to them. This is generally achieved over time by being open, caring and responsive; either in small groups or one to one.

If a child wants to talk:

- ✓ Suggest where you might meet
- ✓ Offer the child/young person privacy but remember their and your safety
- ✓ Remember not to promise confidentiality
- ✓ A child/young person may not be wanting to talk about a disclosure or abuse
- ✓ Be aware of how to respond if a child/young person does disclose abuse (see p.85 for further guidance).

Some children or young people may wish to receive counselling. It is important to realise that counselling for sexual abuse is complex, requiring a great deal of skill and training. Before engaging in counselling professional advice and guidance should be sought. Note also that there are official regulatory bodies governing standards of practice. However, these standards should not prevent help being given to those who have been abused, provided the guidelines in this document are followed.

It is worth mentioning that if the allegations become subject to legal proceedings, the Crown Prosecution Service has published guidelines (Provision of Therapy for Child Witnesses Prior to a Criminal Trial Practice Guidance) covering professional counselling for children before a court case. In other cases, unless agreed by Social Services and/or Crown Prosecution Service/police, counselling should only be made available after the court case.

As victims of trauma, survivors of child sexual abuse may try to avoid remembering what has happened and many report periods of time when they partially or even totally forgot the abuse. Remembering can be triggered by an event or be spontaneous. Memories leading to allegations may emerge in the course of counselling or therapy quite unconnected with issues of abuse.

Church leaders and counsellors need to take memories of sexual abuse seriously. They are not necessarily the key to the person's present problems. The counsellor or therapist should allow the individual to talk about their memories, thinking about experiences and dealing appropriately with the past and the present. Counsellors must not impose their own conclusions even if they suspect that child sexual abuse may have occurred.

Distressed people are in a vulnerable state and may be susceptible to suggestion from a counsellor or other helper. They may fear being rejected if they appear uncooperative or may want to please the person helping them. Both counsellor and client may be tempted to look for a single identifiable cause for a complex problem. Group sessions, hypnotism, workbooks or other techniques, which place strong emphasis on 'recovered memories', may actually make it harder to determine the truth unless used with great care. It could damage not only the individual, but others too, if that person responds to what they have come to believe, for example, by wrongly accusing a family member.

There have been occasions when a well-meaning leader has planted the suggestion in a person's mind that they could have been abused. Such remarks can be taken on board and owned by the counsellee without any foundation whatsoever, but they nevertheless come to believe it. In some cases, it has been known that a counsellor providing this information has claimed it is a message from God or a word of knowledge. Great pastoral care is required in churches that use spiritual gifts and it is not only biblical but wise that these gifts are tested (1 John 4:1).

Parental consent

On the issue of a parent's rights to know, this may not be an issue if the child or young person is willing for a parent/carer to be made aware of the situation.

Young people between 16 and 18 years of age are generally regarded as competent and able to consent to their own medical treatment by virtue of Section 8 of the Family Law Reform Act 1987. Parental consent to counselling a child under 16 years is regarded as good practice. Parental participation in the decision to seek counselling may well be very beneficial even though a young person might not initially want to involve them.

If a young person under 16 seeks counselling and is adamant that they do not want their parents informed, the counsellor can only provide such a service if they are satisfied that the child is “Gillick competent”. This term originated from a legal precedent made in the case of *Gillick v West Norfolk Health Authority* (1986) in which Mrs Victoria Gillick tried to show that it was illegal for her daughters to be offered contraceptive treatment without her consent. The House of Lords decided that a child under 16 years of age could consent to medical treatment providing he or she could demonstrate "sufficient understanding to make informed decisions". The ability to consent to medical treatment is still linked to the child's chronological age but it is recognised that competence is a developing capacity and the rate of development between children varies.

Lord Frazer (involved in the ‘Gillick’ rulings) added a requirement that before advice/counselling is given, a counsellor should be confident that it is “in the best interests of the child”.

The Department of Health issued fresh guidance to health professionals on 1st August 2004 to clarify the issue in regard to contraceptive services for the under 16’s. It states that the professional should build a rapport with the young person, giving them time and support so they can make an informed choice. They should discuss the benefit of informing a GP and talking with a parent/carers, or failing that, another adult to provide support e.g. another family member or specialist youth worker. It is reiterated that the duty of confidentiality is not absolute. Where the professional believes that ‘there is a risk to the health, safety or welfare of a young person or others which is so serious as to outweigh the young person’s right to privacy, they should follow agreed child protection protocols. In these circumstances the over-riding objective must be to safeguard the young person’. These principles are equally applicable in the counselling situation.

There may be concerns that there are risks of significant harm, in other words that the young person will suffer if parental involvement is insisted upon. If counselling or other help cannot be provided because the young person is not considered "competent", or there are serious concerns or perceived risks about consulting parents/carers, then it would be wise to consider involving Social Services.

Confidentiality

Trained counsellors will need to consider very carefully the basis on which services are provided, as in some circumstances (i.e. if the child is at risk) it will not be possible to maintain confidentiality. This can include circumstances when an adult reveals past abuse, naming the perpetrator as someone who still has responsibilities for, or contact with children. In this situation it is possible that other children are still being abused or could be in the future. Understandably, there will be concern for the counsellee, but the protection of children must always be the overriding consideration.

It is important to realise that sexual abuse of children is often addictive and people can continue abusing whatever their age and this is why the protection of children overrides the responsibility of confidentiality towards a counsellee. Clearly the matter has to be handled very sensitively and the Baptist Union and CCPAS are happy to advise in individual circumstances. **Total confidentiality should never be offered.**

It must be stated strongly that counselling is a specialised discipline and requires specialist training. Most children's and youth workers are not equipped or qualified to engage in counselling. However, often a child or young person will confide in, or trust their children's or youth worker with personal, privileged and sensitive information. As such, it would be wrong to either ignore, or say 'that's too deep, I can't hear that from you'.

Remember

- You aren't an expert and you aren't expected to operate alone. Talk to your team leader, or one of the church staff, or if the matter relates to a Disclosure, to the Designated Safeguarding Person.
- Know your limits. Both in terms of what's appropriate to talk about if you're the opposite sex, as well as the level of your experience and expertise.
- It's right to refer or ask for help!
- Never guarantee confidentiality. In some situations, we are duty bound to refer to others.

Aims

- To act at all times in the best interests of the person you're speaking with.
- To refer to Social Services or Police Child Protection Team where a child is at risk, or to a GP where there are serious concerns about a counsellee's mental state or physical safety.
- To ensure that those who 'counsel' or 'talk' with children and young people are trained to follow child protection procedures laid down by theBARN BIDFORD.

Guidelines

- Allow the child to tell you whatever they wish, without putting pressure on them to identify their alleged abuser.
- Don't ask leading questions. Only "reflect back" what is being said.
- Give time to allow the individual to:
 - Grieve (make sure you have tissues available)
 - Express anger or other emotions
 - Explore the why's and wherefores
 - Think about possible action
 - Pray or be silent.
- If what you hear raises concerns about the immediate safety of this person or another child(ren)/young person(s), advise the individual of this and stress that they can help to protect others by giving information to the authorities.
- Make careful notes of what is alleged, i.e. what the person said, how you responded, what led to the allegation being made. This document should be signed and dated and kept securely.
- Reassure the individual that they do not have to make a formal statement leading to a prosecution unless they wish to. They can discuss the matter with someone from the Police Child Protection Unit or Social Services.
- Consider whether the person would like you to accompany them if/when they speak to the authorities.
- Be aware that if they decide to make a formal statement which leads to a prosecution, your notes could be used as evidence and you may be required to attend a court hearing.

- You should avoid discussing the substance of the allegation with the individual from then on but offer emotional support during any proceedings, concentrating on areas that have arisen as a result of the abuse rather than the abuse itself.
- Ensure adequate supervision for those dealing with these specific issues.
- Seek advice from the Baptist Union or CCPAS and the appropriately trained persons.
- Refer the concern to the Designated Person for Safeguarding, who may contact Social Services or the Police Child Protection Team for advice.

First Aid Kit and Contacts

All theBARN BIDFORD premises used by children and young people should have a properly equipped First Aid kit. Its contents should be stored in a waterproof container and the Designated Safeguarding Person (or Staff Team members) should regularly check the contents. Workers should be encouraged to attend training run by a relevant authorised training facility.

A suggested minimum for a first aid kit:

Medium Dressing 12x12cm	1
Large Dressing 18x18cm	4
Triangular Bandage	2
Finger Dressing 3.5x3.5cm	2
Conforming Bandage 7.5cm x 4.5m	1
Safety Pins	6
Eye-pad	2
Washproof Plasters (assorted) 10pk	4
Sterile Moist Cleansing Wipes 10pk	2
Microporous Tape 2.5cm x 10m	1
Nitrile Powder Free Gloves (pair)	6
Face Shield (Resuscitation mask with valve)	1
Disposable Heat Retaining Foil Blanket	1
Burnshield® Burns Dressing 10x10cm	1
Tuff-Kut Scissors	1

If there are any incidents or medical problems, make sure a record is kept of the incident, responses made (including any treatment or assistance given), and make sure the child's parent/carer is informed as soon as reasonably possible.

In the event of a serious accident or emergency, also contact the Ministry Team Leader (and/or the Pastor(s)) as well as the Designated Person for Safeguarding.

First Aid Training and Advice contacts:

St. John Ambulance, www.sja.org.uk
<http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/first-aid-advice.aspx>

NHS 111
<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Emergencyandurgentcareservices/Pages/NHS-111.aspx>

A suggested link for additional supplies:

Guidelines for Non-Medical/Non-Nursing Staff for Administration of Pre-Loaded Adrenaline Injection for Children with Anaphylactic Reactions

Anaphylactic Reactions

Anaphylactic shock is a very severe form of allergic reaction, leading to collapse or breathing difficulties which may be life threatening. It may be preceded by itching, nettle rash and swollen lips. Some children become restless, others floppy and semi-rousable. There may be changes in voice or face colour. Choking or losses of consciousness are serious symptoms.

Anaphylactic reaction can result from certain types of food (peanuts or white of an egg for example), to plants, bee and wasp stings or from allergy to a variety of other causes.

Anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock is a sudden allergic reaction. It may be caused by exposure to a substance to which the person has become sensitive. It is a serious and potentially fatal condition that may develop in a few seconds or minutes.

Church Arrangements

When a child has recently developed this condition, or attends an event which is the responsibility of the church, and has a history of anaphylactic reactions, it is the parent's responsibility to draw the attention of the workers/volunteers to the condition. In addition to the regular consent form, discussions should be had with the parents and child to work out a health care plan should the need arise.

Arrangements should be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Person and the responsible first aider, as well as the group leader.

The treatment of anaphylactic reaction is adrenaline, which is given by injection. Special pre-loaded adrenaline 'pens', designed for use by lay people, make the injection straightforward to give. Workers should be trained in order to recognise symptoms and administer if required. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that a pen is available if necessary and that the pen has not exceeded its expiry date

Signs or Symptoms of Anaphylaxis

Mild	Headache Itching Feeling slightly unwell
Severe Red	itching areas on skin (<i>Urticaria</i>) Weakness Dizziness Difficulty in breathing Hoarseness Swelling of face and lips
Extreme	Loss of consciousness Death

All workers should plan their work with children and young people in such a way that they will not normally be alone with children or young people where their activity cannot be seen by others.

This will mean:

- A worker should never plan to be alone on church premises with children or young people
- When there are insufficient leaders and workers to have two for each group doors should be left open, or two groups should work in the same room. (Wherever possible all doors should be fitted with glass panels.)
- At least two people should be present before the doors are opened as children and young people arrive for a group and at least two adults should remain until the last child or young person has left the building or room at the end of a meeting.
- A worker should never invite a child or young person to their home alone. It may be acceptable to invite a group if another adult is in the house. Establish that each parent/carer knows where their child is and at what time they should return home.

Unplanned Occasions When a Worker is Alone with Children or Young People

There may be occasions when, despite careful planning, a worker finds themselves in a situation when they are in sole charge of children or young people in the context of a church activity. In these situations, the worker should:

- Assess the risks involved in sending the child or children home against the risks and vulnerability of being alone with them

Wherever possible, immediately phone another appropriate person to report the situation. Workers should know who they should phone in such a situation. It could be the Designated Person for Safeguarding, the Pre-School or Children's Pastor, the Youth Ministry Leader or one of the Pastors.

- Make a written report of the situation (Incident Report Form p.116) immediately afterwards and give a copy to the Designated Person for Safeguarding. (The report serves two functions. It helps to ensure appropriate accountability for situations where there is increased vulnerability and risk. It also allows for the monitoring of situations where workers are on their own with children and young people. If the same situation keeps recurring, working practices can be reviewed.)

There may be other situations when a child or young person asks to speak to a worker on their own. The most common situation is when a youth worker is offering support or pastoral guidance to a young person where privacy and confidentiality are important. The following guidelines should apply:

- If the worker believes that to speak to the young person on their own would place them in a vulnerable position (for example, because the young person has developed an inappropriate attachment to the worker) the worker should insist that another worker should also be present
- If it is possible for the conversation to be held in a quiet corner of the room where others are present, but where sufficient privacy can be assured, this option should be taken
- If this is not possible, the conversation is best held in a room with the door left open or where there is glass in the door so that others can see inside the room
- Another adult should be in the building and the young person should know that they are there

- Another adult should know that the interview is taking place and with whom
- A worker should set an agreed time limit prior to the conversation and stick to it! It is the responsibility of the worker, as the adult involved, to set this ground rule and to end the session at the designated time. Make another appointed time to continue if necessary.
- A youth worker should not invite a child or young person to their home alone nor go to the child or young person's home if they are alone.

Children and young people will want to speak to the person they most trust when looking for help and support. It is therefore important that all workers are aware of these guidelines so that they are able to respond appropriately when the situation arises. However, it should be recognised that these guidelines are specifically designed for workers to respond to requests made by children and young people. If it is felt to be appropriate for workers to be more proactive in working one to one with young people, the guidelines in the next section should be followed.

Working One to One

Most church youth work takes place within a group setting (youth club, small groups etc.), however there are times when one to one work with a young person is a necessary part of a good youth work programme.

- It would be rare for one to one work to be part of the normal pattern of work with children under secondary school age.

Working one to one with a young person can come out of a number of different situations:

- taking time to listen as a young person shares an issue they are facing
- offering ongoing support and advice
- a formal agreement involving a mentoring relationship between an adult and young person
- the need to meet a young person who is facing a crisis in their life
- discipleship of a young person, including accountability, prayer, Bible study

We need to find appropriate and safe ways of coming alongside young people in this way and ensure guidelines are in place to safeguard both the young person and the adult. These guidelines should be clearly communicated to members, workers and parents. Young people need to know that those working with them are dependable, reliable and available, while keeping within appropriate boundaries.

Recognition

Although any youth or children's worker may find themselves in a situation where a child or young person wants to confide in them and a one to one conversation is appropriate there are some for whom it may be appropriate to work more regularly in one to one settings. Often this is more likely to feature as a component of the work of paid youth workers, but not exclusively so.

We recommend that any who work in this way in the church should:

- have proven their willingness to work within the policy and procedures of the church's Safeguarding Children Policy
- have demonstrated their capacity to respect appropriate boundaries in their relationships with children and young people
- be formally recognised as someone who has the trust of the church to engage in one to one working with young people

All workers should be aware that they need the specific permission of the church to work one to one if this is to be a routine part of their interaction with children and young people.

Accountability

A simple log sheet should be kept regarding who, where and when workers and young people have met. This gives opportunities for other workers to raise a concern about a particular worker's allegiance to a young person.

Outline notes should be made following the meeting, recording the essence of the conversation, advice given or recommendations made and what was agreed. Notes should be securely stored and young people should be aware that they have a right to see any records kept about them.

Supervision

Supervision of workers should be used to monitor the frequency of appointments as well as the content of meetings, ensuring a worker isn't 'getting in over their head', and a young person is not becoming too dependent on the worker.

Maintaining Distance

Workers need to maintain a healthy self-awareness when working one to one. Phrases such as, "You're the only one who understands me," may be flattering but should ring alarm bells. Is there a possibility of drawing someone else in to work alongside you or having a cooling off period of a few weeks whilst they reflect upon advice given to them?

Workers need to maintain a professional distance, and not be at the beck and call of the individual young person. Workers need to have adequate knowledge of where to refer a young person, if necessary. It is the worker's responsibility to know what to do with the information given to them and when to involve other agencies.

Confidentiality

Appropriate confidentiality is necessary. When young people share personal information, they will need to know that the worker is not going to share that information with others in the church – particularly as the workers can be friends of the young person's parents. However, workers must understand that if they believe the young person they are talking to, or other young people, are at risk of harm then they have a responsibility to pass that information on. Great care should therefore be taken before promising confidentiality.

What is most important is that the young person knows what the boundaries of confidentiality are. There may be times when the worker believes that it would be helpful to talk to others about the matters that have been shared. In this situation, the worker should talk this through with the young person.

Venue

Any contact with young people should be in a public place, at an appropriate time and in view of another adult (i.e. early morning, late night or whilst they should be at school is not appropriate). For example you could meet with a young person in a one to one situation

- at the end of a youth group event whilst others are clearing up
- during a youth group session, in a side room with the door open and others knowing that the meeting is taking place
- at a coffee shop after school.

One to one work can be an essential part of youth work, but there are risks involved with this type of working for both the young person and the youth worker. One to one work must be practised safely, appropriately and within agreed guidelines. Whatever age group we are working with, one to ones must not operate outside of the law.

A good resource for further thinking about one to one working is: *Can We Have a Chat? Working safely with young people one to one*, John Langford, Grove Publications, 2006.

Electronic Communication

Within the code of behaviour for workers with children and young people careful consideration should be given on the safe use of mobile phones, SMS, Text, e-mail, social networking sites, Facebook, Instagram, etc. to communicate with children and young people. Electronic communication has become enormously important and popular. It is an easy way to communicate with young people in particular.

However, there are dangers associated with electronic communication that call for vigilance:

- electronic communication is often an extremely informal mode of communication which can create the potential for communication to be misunderstood
- because of the informal style of electronic communication, workers can easily cross appropriate boundaries in their relationships with children and young people
- some adults who are intent on harming children and young people choose to use electronic communication as a way to meet and 'groom' children and young people

The following guidelines regarding the safe use of electronic communication will help maintain healthy and safe relationships between adults and children. theBARN BIDFORD acknowledges that electronic communication is a legitimate means of communicating with children and young people, as long as strict protocols are followed concerning the nature of the communication.

Electronic communication must never become a substitute for face-to-face contact with young people. With the world of electronic communication changing so rapidly, it is not possible to issue guidance that covers all eventualities. However, there are some general principles that can help to ensure that the church's overriding concern is for the well-being of the children and young people.

- Parents or carers and children and young people themselves have the right to decide if a worker is to have email addresses or mobile phone numbers etc.
- Workers should only use electronic means of communication with those children and young people from whom appropriate consent has been given
- Workers should not put any pressure on children or young people to reveal their email address, mobile phone number etc.
- Direct electronic communication with children of primary school age is inappropriate and should be avoided
- Only workers who have been appointed under the church's agreed safeguarding procedures should use any electronic means of communication to contact children or young people on behalf of the church or one of the church's organisations
- Contact with children and young people by electronic communication should generally be for information-giving purposes only and not for general chatter
- Where a young person in need or at a point of crisis uses this as a way of communicating with a worker:
 - Significant conversations should be saved as a text file if possible, and

- A log kept of who and when they communicated and who was involved
- Workers should not share any personal information with children and young people, and should not request or respond to any personal information from the child or young person other than that which is necessary and appropriate as part of their role
- Workers should be careful in their communications with children and young people so as to avoid any possible misinterpretation of their motives
- Clear, unambiguous language should be used, avoiding the use of unnecessary abbreviations
- Electronic communication should only be used between the hours of 8.00am and 10.00pm
- E-mails to young people should include a church header and footer showing this to be an official communication from a youth team member

Mobile phones

- Mobile phone usage should be primarily about information-giving
- 'Text language' should be avoided so that there is no misunderstanding of what is being communicated
- 'Text conversations' should usually be avoided (that is a series of text messages/emails being sent to and fro between mobile phones)
- The use of the phone camera should comply with the church's policy on photos/videos
- Workers should not retain images of children and young people on their mobile phone

Social Networking, Instant Messaging, Facebook etc.

Technology is changing the landscape of western culture rapidly, and especially so for teenagers. What's 'hot' and 'in' now may not be in a few months' time. Any policy can become dated quickly. As such, theBARN BIDFORD will review and update guidelines and good practice in relation of Social Networking regularly.

Guidelines and Good Practice:

- Where a child or young person in need or at a point of crisis uses this as a way of communicating with a worker:
 - Significant conversations should be saved as a text file if possible, and
 - A log kept of when they communicated, who was involved and using which Social Networking sites.
- If youth leaders are going to communicate via social networking sites consideration should be given to creating a separate profile for the church group
- Alternatively, youth leaders can consider having a site that is used solely for youth work communications which is totally separate from their own personal site
- If youth leaders are going to use their own personal site they should ensure that all of its content is appropriate for young people to see
- Lower age limits of social networking sites should be adhered to (this varies for each site)
- Be aware of the content of photos that may be uploaded on to your site
- Be aware that children and young people could view photos and communications of other people linked to that social networking site
- All communication with young people should be kept within public domains
- Avoid using apps like Snapchat and other forms of communication that 'delete' messages or images (still or video), or messages that are by nature transitory and temporary.
- Workers should ensure that all communications are transparent and open to scrutiny. A good 'rule of thumb' is would you be happy and 'at ease' with another adult or a young person's parent reading the communication/messages?
- Copies of communications should be retained and where possible other workers should be copied in on communication

- Transparency and openness with other key leaders is helpful to maintain good practice and safe practice. We encourage our team to be open and speak with their team leader/s about any of these matters.

Photography

It is not illegal to take photographs of children. However, when taking photographs or video footage we must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. Fear of breaching this Act should not be wrongly used to stop people taking photographs or videos of all activities involving children and young people. It is possible to be responsible without being over-restrictive.

Guidelines for Photography, Filming and Image Use

- Signed consent should be obtained from parents/carers for photographs to be taken at church activities. The consent form should clarify where those photographs are likely to be used (display board, website, press etc.). Group leaders should be aware, and act accordingly to the consent decision indicated on the Consent Form relating to Image Consent (Section 5 of Parental Consent Form)
- Photographing children and young people should be conducted with sensitivity and courtesy. Children generally like having their picture taken, but there may be moments when they would rather not. Consent of the child or young person is just as important as parental permission.
- When photographs are displayed children and young people should **not** be identified by name, nor should it be possible to infer the identity of individual children and young people from the photograph. For example, a photograph of a group of children is accompanied by text which uses the names of only some of the children. If one of the names is of a boy and there is only one boy in the photograph, it would be possible to infer the boy's name.
- Any photographs sent to the press must not identify individual children or young people by name, nor should the names of individual children be able to be inferred from an accompanying caption or story.
- Copies of photographs must not be distributed to other individuals without the permission of a parent/carer. This includes digital images.
- If images are being taken at an event attended by large crowds, such as a sports event, this is regarded as a public area and permission from a crowd is not necessary.
- If a parent/carer has indicated on a Consent Form that they do not want their child/young person to be photographed, the Group Leader should make sure the child knows this, and prevent peer pressure or mocking from other members of the group, if images are taken.
 - Many young people and children have their own smart phone and often freely take pictures and videos. This is not covered under theBARN BIDFORD Parental Consent Forms.
 - It is helpful to talk through these issues with both the child/young person, and their parent/carers to understand the choices being made and the reality of youth media-savvy culture to avoid possible problems and misunderstanding.
- When using photographs of children and young people, it is preferable to use group pictures.

Digital Dignity

Many young people and children have their own smart phone and often freely take pictures and videos uploading them to various social media platforms. Leaders should talk through issues raised (including safety and privacy), as well as the right to a leader's own 'digital dignity.'

Definitions of Abuse

From the report “Working Together to Safeguard Children: March 2015” the following terms and definitions are used ...

Abuse

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Children

Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Long-term neglect is likely to cause far more developmental delay and impairment than any other form of abuse. In extreme cases severe neglect can lead to the death of a child. A distinction must be made between neglect caused by financial poverty which can be alleviated by financial help and that caused by emotional poverty. These may co-exist, but relief of the former does not lead to relief of the latter.

Physical Abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Sexual Exploitation

happens online, young people may be persuaded, or forced, to:

- send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone
- have sexual conversations by text or online.

Abusers may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity.

Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the sexual abuse has stopped.

Grooming

is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation. Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional.

- Groomers may be male or female.
- They could be any age.
- Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse.

Grooming happens both online and in person. Groomers will hide their true intentions and may spend a long time gaining a child's trust. They may also try to gain the trust of the whole family so they can be alone with the child.

Groomers do this by:

- pretending to be someone they are not, for example saying they are the same age online
- offering advice or understanding

- buying gifts
- giving the child attention
- using their professional position or reputation
- taking them on trips, outings or holidays.

Using secrets and intimidation to control children

Once they have established trust, groomers will exploit the relationship by isolating the child from friends or family and making the child feel dependent on them. They will use any means of power or control to make a child believe they have no choice but to do what they want. Groomers may introduce 'secrets' as a way to control or frighten the child. Sometimes they will blackmail the child, or make them feel ashamed or guilty, to stop them telling anyone about the abuse.

Online grooming

- Groomers can use social media sites, instant messaging apps including teen dating apps, or online gaming platforms to connect with a young person or child.
- They can spend time learning about a young person's interests from their online profiles and then use this knowledge to help them build up a relationship.
- It's easy for groomers to hide their identity online - they may pretend to be a child and then chat and become 'friends' with children they are targeting.

Groomers may look for:

- usernames or comments that are flirtatious or have a sexual meaning
- public comments that suggest a child has low self-esteem or is vulnerable.

Groomers don't always target a particular child. Sometimes they will send messages to hundreds of young people and wait to see who responds.

Groomers no longer need to meet children in real life to abuse them. Increasingly, groomers are sexually exploiting their victims by persuading them to take part in online sexual activity.

Spiritual Abuse

The term 'spiritual abuse' is not one of the official definitions of abuse but is sometimes used to describe some of the particular features of abuse arising within religious organisations. 'Spiritual abuse' is increasingly being used to describe those situations where an abuse of power takes place in the context of a faith community. The following is a widely used definition of spiritual abuse:

"Spiritual abuse occurs when someone uses their power within a framework of spiritual belief or practice to satisfy their own needs at the expense of others."

However, the term is sometimes used more loosely to refer to the ways in which children can suffer harm through the beliefs and practices of a Christian church or other faith community. Lord Laming's report into the death of Victoria Climbié highlighted the way in which belief in the demon possession of children can lead to harmful and abusive practices in some churches. It is questionable whether it is helpful to categorise this separately as 'spiritual abuse'. It could be argued that what is happening is that religious belief and practice are being used to justify and condone the physical and emotional harming of children. The Government guidance Safeguarding Children from Abuse linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession (HM Government 2007) addresses a very specific aspect of religious practice which can become abusive to children.

There are a number of ways in which practice in churches can lead to the abuse or neglect of children:

- A belief in demon possession resulting in the labelling and naming of a child as 'evil' or a 'witch'
- Placing pressure on children to make decisions that are not appropriate to their age or developmental stage
- Using teaching material (especially video/images) which are age-inappropriate (e.g. consider guidance from the team leader if in doubt, or film classification guidance).
- Creating an environment in which children are discouraged from asking questions or holding alternative views

Who causes harm to children?

It is important to recognise that children and young people can be subject to harm in any and every setting. It is important for those working with children and young people to be aware that harm may be perpetrated by both males and females and by other children and young people.

The person who brings harm to children and young people:

- is most often someone known to the child (i.e. parent, carer, sibling, other relation, family friend or neighbour)
- is often an adult with whom the child or young person has a valued relationship and may be in a position of trust and responsibility within an organisation to which a child belongs or has contact
- can be of any background – social, economic, cultural, ethnic etc.
- may act in isolation or together with other adults
- can be another child or young person. Children and young people who abuse other children are likely to be children or young people who have considerable needs of their own, sometimes as a result of abuse, neglect, disruption and instability they themselves have experienced. The risk they pose to other children should not be overlooked.

Age of consent

The age of consent (the legal age to have sex) in the UK is 16 years old. The laws are there to protect children. They are not there to prosecute under-16s who have mutually consenting sexual activity but will be used if there is abuse or exploitation involved.

To help protect younger children the law says anyone under the age of 13 can never legally give consent. This means that anyone engaging in sexual activity with a child who is 12 or younger will be subject to penalties set out under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The law also gives extra protection to young people who are 16 to 17 years old.

It is illegal to:

- take, show or distribute indecent photographs
- pay for or arrange sexual services
- for a person in a position of trust (for example, teachers, care workers) to engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18.

Significant Harm

This relates to the degree of harm that triggers statutory action to protect a child. It is based on the individual child's health or development compared to that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child. E.g. severity of ill treatment, degree and extent of physical harm, duration and frequency of abuse and neglect, premeditation. Department of Health guidance suggests that 'significant' means 'considerable, noteworthy or important.'

Organised Abuse

'Organised' or multiple abuse may be defined as abuse involving one or more abuser and a number of related or non-related children and young people. The abusers concerned may be acting in concert to abuse children, sometimes acting in isolation, or may be using an institutional framework or position of authority to recruit children for abuse.' (Government Guidelines - 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 1999).

Child Prostitution

Children involved in prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation should be treated primarily as the victims of abuse and their needs require careful assessment. (Government Guidelines - 'Working Together to Safeguard Children.' 1999. See also 'Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution - Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children').

Signs of Abuse

theBARN BIDFORD offers regular training to all who work with children and young people in the church in order that they understand the ways in which children can be harmed. In particular it is important that those who work with children and young people are alert to the indicators that a child or young person is being abused.

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
- Injuries on areas of the body not usually prone to injury
- An injury that has not been treated/received medical attention
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- Any changes in behaviour or mood (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden bursts of temper)
- Inappropriate sexual awareness
- Signs of neglect, such as under-nourishment, untreated illnesses, inadequate care or inappropriate clothing for the weather or time of year

Please note 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 any of the above is occurring – it is not your job to investigate or decide if something is abuse, only to report on what is observed.

Knowing whether a child is being abused or neglected may be difficult to judge. All those who have contact with children and young people should be alert to the potential indicators of abuse and neglect and know how to respond to concerns they may have. All workers should also know to whom those concerns should be reported.

Race, Culture and Religion

Crucial to any assessment is a knowledge and sensitivity to racial, cultural and religious aspects. Remember also that differences exist not only between ethnic groups but also within the same ethnic group and between different neighbourhoods and social classes. While different practices must be taken into account, it is also important to remember that all children have basic human rights. Differences in child-rearing do not justify child abuse.

Ways that harm might be discovered

On occasions an incident or an injury will give cause for concern, but often it is a series of incidents, or an accumulation of concerns, which indicate that a child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering harm.

- Children and young people might share with a trusted adult a concern they have about their safety or disclose that they are being harmed.
- A child's observed behaviour, their physical appearance, developmental progress and emotional demeanour might indicate that they are being abused or neglected.
- Sudden changes might be observed in a child's behaviour.
- There may be a history of concerns noted over a number of occasions.

How adults (parents, carers, leaders, etc.) behave around children and young people might also give rise to concerns.

- There may be indicators that parents/carers are experiencing difficulties which are having adverse and potentially damaging effects on their child, e.g. domestic abuse, substance misuse or mental health issues.
- Observations of an adult's interaction with a child or young person might give cause for concern.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is the abuse of a person physically, sexually, psychologically, spiritually, emotionally, socially or financially within an intimate or family-type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour.

This can include forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes'. Domestic abuse is also known as domestic violence. (Adapted from the Women's Aid definition of domestic violence)

A perpetrator of domestic abuse chooses to behave in abusive ways in order to develop and maintain power over and control of their victim.

It is important to recognise that either a woman or a man can be the victim, as well as a perpetrator, of Domestic Abuse.

Recognising Domestic Abuse

The following information is taken from the Women's Aid website, www.womensaid.org.uk, and is protected by copyright to Women's Aid Federation of England. (© 2015 Women's Aid Federation of England).

Everyone has arguments, and everyone disagrees with their partners, family members and others close to them from time to time. And we all do things at times that we regret, and which cause unhappiness to those we care about. But if this begins to form a consistent pattern, then it is an indication of domestic abuse. Although every situation is unique, there are common factors that link the experience of an abusive relationship. Acknowledging these factors is an important step in preventing and stopping the abuse. This list can help you to recognise if you, or someone you know, is in an abusive relationship.

They include:

- **Destructive criticism and verbal abuse:** shouting; mocking; accusing; name calling; verbally threatening.
- **Pressure tactics:** sulking; threatening to withhold money, disconnecting the phone and internet, taking away or destroying your mobile, tablet or laptop, taking the car away, taking the children away; threatening to report you to the police, social services or the mental health team unless you comply with his demands; threatening or attempting self-harm and suicide; withholding or pressuring you to use drugs or other substances; lying to your friends and family about you; telling you that you have no choice in any decisions.
- **Disrespect:** persistently putting you down in front of other people; not listening or responding when you talk; interrupting your telephone calls; taking money from your purse without asking; refusing to help with childcare or housework.
- **Breaking trust:** lying to you; withholding information from you; being jealous; having other relationships; breaking promises and shared agreements.
- **Isolation:** monitoring or blocking your phone calls, e-mails and social media accounts, telling you where you can and cannot go; preventing you from seeing friends and relatives; shutting you in the house.
- **Harassment:** following you; checking up on you; not allowing you any privacy (for example, opening your mail, going through your laptop, tablet or mobile), repeatedly checking to see who has phoned you; embarrassing you in public; accompanying you everywhere you go.
- **Threats:** making angry gestures; using physical size to intimidate; shouting you down; destroying your possessions; breaking things; punching walls; wielding a knife or a gun; threatening to kill or harm you and the children; threatening to kill or harm family pets; threats of suicide.
- **Sexual violence:** using force, threats or intimidation to make you perform sexual acts; having sex with you when you don't want it; forcing you to look at pornographic material; constant pressure and harassment into having sex when you don't want to, forcing you to have sex with other people; any degrading treatment related to your sexuality or to whether you are lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual.
- **Physical violence:** punching; slapping; hitting; biting; pinching; kicking; pulling hair out; pushing; shoving; burning; strangling, pinning you down, holding you by the neck, restraining you.
- **Denial:** saying the abuse doesn't happen; saying you caused the abuse; saying you wind him up; saying he can't control his anger; being publicly gentle and patient; crying and begging for forgiveness; saying it will never happen again.

National Domestic Violence Helpline

If you have been personally affected by abuse or violence or still in an abusive or violent relationship you can get help. If you are based in the UK you can call the Domestic Violence helpline. It's a confidential 24 hour service. Visit nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org or call directly on Freephone 0808 2000 247

What can I do if I think someone I know has been abused?

One of the hardest things for a victim of abuse to do is to admit it - most abuse is unreported. If you are at all concerned that someone you know might be the victim of abuse, you may notice some or all of the following signs in that person:

- unexplained bruises or injuries
- becomes unusually quiet or withdrawn
- frequent absences from work or regular commitments
- wearing clothes which conceal, even on the warmest days
- stops talking about their partner

It is difficult to begin a conversation, even if you have a close relationship with the person you are concerned about, but if you are able to broach the subject, your offer of help could be the first step to helping them break free from an abusive situation.

Dos and Don'ts in dealing with domestic abuse

What can you do?

- DO ensure her immediate safety. She will not be able to talk or think clearly if she is afraid. Explore ways to maximise her safety whether she stays in the relationship or leaves.
- DO believe her. She is far more likely to minimise the problem than to dramatise it. Take time to listen, and talk in a safe private place.
- DO recognise her need for positive response and support, even if there is nothing practical that you can do immediately.
- DO be sensitive to and discuss her fears about approaching the Police or Social Services. She may never have done so, or she may have done so many times and is hesitant to do so yet again!
- DO make sure she knows how to contact the Police and reach the local refuge where she can talk to workers even if she decides not to move there. The local Citizens' Advice Bureau will also give up to date advice, whether she is in a crisis situation or just wants to talk over her options.
- DO reinforce that we all expect to live free from abuse. No-one should have to live with abuse in their own home. Violence – of any kind - is not an appropriate way to communicate within a relationship.
- DO reassure her that the violence her partner commits is his responsibility and he should not blame her for his actions. He is the only one who has control over his behaviour.
- DO remember that if she is from an ethnic minority group, her problems could be compounded by racist reactions, language and cultural barriers, or fragile immigration status.
- DO always check that it will be safe to contact her at home should it become necessary. Do respect her wishes if she does not want you to make any contact. Her partner is unlikely to know that she has been to see you about the violence, and is even less likely to take kindly to it. Discreteness and care is crucial.
- DO find out what **she** wants to do and see if you can help her achieve it.
- DO offer to meet again soon and keep in regular supportive contact.

What not to do

- DON'T ask her what she did to provoke the abusive behaviour. If you do, you are implicitly condoning his action.
- DON'T suggest that she should 'try again'. She has probably been doing that for a long time now. Once abuse has become part of a relationship it will not go away. There is a lot of evidence to show that violent incidents increase in severity and become more frequent over time.
- DON'T suggest a combined interview. She and/or the children may feel too threatened to speak freely in the presence of her assailant, and responsibility for the abuse can become lost in justifications, etc. If she does speak out, the repercussions afterwards may be serious.
- DON'T expect her to make binding decisions in a hurry. Many women say that they wish to stay with their partner, and that they only want the abuse to stop. This decision-making process can be assisted by your patient and long-term support and encouragement. It may take years for a woman to make a final decision to leave.

- DON'T make decisions for her. It is up to her to decide if she wants to leave the man or give it another try. By all means discuss her options, but leave her to decide what fits best with her situation.
- DON'T pass on information about her new home to anyone, without her specific permission. It may be tempting to act in the role of go-between. It will not help and may increase her problems and those of her children.
- DON'T judge, or criticize the victim, and don't initiate any physical contact. If someone is put off initially for any reason, it may be a long while before they trust anyone and speak out again.
- DON'T ignore your intuition, nor underestimate the seriousness of the situation. Remember that when someone does speak out or decide to leave, the danger of the situation increases.

For further information or help contact

Restored <http://www.restoredrelationships.org/>

National 24-hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line and Enquiry 0808 801 0327 <http://mensadvice.org.uk/>

Action on Elder Abuse National Helpline 0808 808 8141

Self Harming

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. Self-harm can be a physical act, such as cutting, or it can be less obvious such as a person putting themselves in risky situations or neglecting their own physical or emotional needs.

There are many forms of self-harm including (*this is not an exhaustive list*):

- Cutting
- Burning
- Overeating or under eating
- Inserting objects into their own body
- Scratching
- Hair pulling
- Poisoning
- Hitting themselves or walls
- Overdosing
- Intentionally putting themselves in risky situations
- Exercising excessively

Some of the reasons people give for self-harming include:

- Converting emotional pain into physical pain
- Expressing something that is hard to put into words
- Feeling that they are in control
- Creating a reason to physically care for themselves
- Reducing overwhelming feelings or thoughts
- Wanting to feel something instead of numbness or disconnection
- Communicating to others that they are experiencing severe distress

Some people can find the process of self-harm to be very addictive. The act of physically harming themselves causes the body to produce endorphins, resulting in a momentary euphoria. Over time

the effect lessens and it becomes necessary to self-harm in bigger and more damaging ways in order to achieve the same sensation. Others don't find self-harming addictive in a physical sense, but they may become emotionally dependent on it. It may initially be used to stop unwanted thoughts or feelings, and before long it is being used daily to prevent these thoughts or feelings from ever surfacing.

There are many reasons why people self-harm. For some it may be a way of dealing with difficult feelings and memories or overwhelming situations and experiences. It may be linked to specific experiences in the past or to something that is happening now. Some people will not be able to explain or pinpoint the reasons for their self-harming behaviour.

Self-harming is not in itself a mental illness, nor is it a suicide attempt. It is not attention-seeking behaviour and, in reality, most people keep their self-harm private.

However, it may be a warning sign that the person is experiencing trauma, such as sexual, physical or emotional abuse or bullying. It may also be that they are dealing with an underlying mental health problem, such as depression.

Common causes of self-harm include:

- Pressures at school or work
- Bullying
- Money worries
- Physical, emotional or sexual abuse
- Bereavement
- Confusion about sexuality
- Relationship breakdown
- Illness or health problem
- Events affecting a loved one (such as divorce, chronic illness, financial problems, etc.)
- Difficult feelings such as anxiety, depression, anger, or numbness experienced as part of a
- mental health problem

Please Note: These are not exhaustive lists and there may be other causes or reasons why someone starts to self-harm.

Possible Indicators of Self-Harm

What might you notice that could indicate self-harm?

People tend to hide their self-harm behaviour, keeping it a secret from their friends and family and often injuring themselves in places that can be hidden easily by clothing. Therefore, it is not always easy to notice if someone is self-harming.

Some of the possible indicators of self-harm include:

- Unexplained cuts, bruises and burns, usually found on the person's wrists, arms, thighs and chest
- Keeping themselves fully covered at all times, even in hot weather
- Depression - including low mood, tearfulness and a lack of motivation or interest
- Becoming withdrawn and not speaking to others
- Changes in eating habits or being secretive about eating, and any unusual weight loss or weight gain

- Signs of low self-esteem - such as blaming themselves for problems or thinking they are 'not good enough' for something
- Misuse of alcohol or drugs and/or substances
- Bald patches from pulling out hair

There may, of course, be other reasons for the indicators shown above, but these are the most common indicators that an individual could be self-harming.

Responding to Self-Harm

People who self-harm often find that the immediate relief of harming themselves is quickly replaced by an even greater sense of distress. It is only through talking about and understanding the emotions involved that the compulsion to self-harm can be reduced and eventually taken away.

Here are some tips which may be helpful if someone discloses to you that they are self-harming:

- It is crucial that the person receives a supportive response. Negative reactions may cause them to refrain from disclosing or talking about self-harm again, thereby preventing them from receiving the support they so desperately need.
- Invite them to talk about their self-harm in a safe environment and give gentle, empathetic support.
- Listen to them without judgement, criticism or anger, and express that you understand that they are finding things difficult.
- Do not tell them simply to stop. This is unhelpful and could make things worse.
- Do not promise confidentiality as, depending on the circumstances, other people may need to become involved. Where possible, ask for consent to share the disclosure. You should be aware that for under 18's or adults at risk who lack mental capacity you should report self-harm to the church's Designated Person For Safeguarding whether or not you have the individual's consent.
- Explore the possible options for them to access support. This may include school, parents, carers, local support groups, Social Care Services, Mental Health Services, their GP or specialist self-harm organisations. (please see the 'Key Contacts' section below for national support organisations)

Self-harm disclosures should be reported to your church's Designated Person for Safeguarding who may seek further advice and support from the local Association Safeguarding Contact or the statutory authorities depending on the circumstances involved.

Continuing to self-harm after disclosure

Self-harm doesn't automatically stop when you confront or acknowledge it. Sometimes it can be even harder for someone to stop after they see that their behaviour causes distress to their family and friends.

The guilt of causing upset to loved ones can push them to harm as a way of coping with the emotions of others. The fear of people finding out that they are continuing to self-harm can push the behaviour further underground, making it more secretive and therefore more difficult to resolve. This highlights the need for great sensitivity when handling self-harm disclosures.

Suicidal Feelings

Although for most people self-harm is not a precursor to a suicide attempt, research shows that, those who self-harm are more likely to take their lives than those who don't. This could be either intentionally or accidentally. Statistically we know that younger men are particularly vulnerable to suicide.

Suicide is a complex issue, and feeling suicidal can be an incredibly frightening and painful experience. A person with suicidal feelings may:

- Believe death is their only option
- Feel worthless and helpless
- Feel that things won't ever get better
- Have feelings of low self-esteem
- Feel overwhelmed and unable to cope
- Be angry at themselves
- Feel isolated and alone
- Feel that they are not understood by anyone
- Not be sure if they want to live or die

These feelings may have appeared suddenly or they may have developed gradually over time. They may be the result of a particular incident or problem, or be caused by a combination of different factors.

It can be very difficult for someone who is contemplating suicide to tell others how they feel. As much as they might feel that they want to die, they may also want to find a way forward, and to have others understand how they are feeling. Yet for many people in this situation opening up and talking about it can feel almost impossible.

Providing Support

If someone does share with you that they have had or are having suicidal feelings, it can be extremely upsetting for you to discover that they are talking about the possibility of taking their own life. It is common to feel helpless, scared and even angry in response.

There are several ways in which you can help someone who is experiencing suicidal thoughts:

- ✓ Try not to judge – it is not helpful to tell them that suicide is wrong or to get angry and frustrated at the thought of them throwing their life away. As hard as it is, try to listen without judgment.
- ✓ Talk to them – ask them how they feel and listen quietly to their response. Try not to worry about saying the right thing. Instead, keep your focus on simply being there to listen and to allow them to be heard.
- ✓ Encourage them to get help – find out about local support available, and gently encourage them to get help.

Don't assume that you know what help they need. Always ask them. They may be aware of things which have helped them in the past as well as what they struggle to do themselves – for example, they may appreciate you offering to book doctor's appointments, or going to appointments with them. Simply your company and some simple activities on difficult days may help.

Looking after yourself

If you are able to provide some support, make sure that you look after yourself as well – it is emotionally draining to support someone who is experiencing suicidal feelings. Try not to blame yourself or hold their decision to want to end their life as your responsibility. Make sure you take time to get the emotional support you need to enable you to continue supporting them.

If you do not feel able to provide support, talk to the person about involving someone else in your church who might be better able to help them.

Disclosure requirements

Where possible, you should always ask for the person's consent to share their disclosure. However, for under 18's or adults at risk who lack mental capacity, it is necessary to report to your church's Designated Person for Safeguarding who may seek further advice and support from your Association Safeguarding Contact

For more information about supporting someone who has suicidal feelings, **Mind** have created an easy to read downloadable guide which can be found on their website mind.org.uk

Key Contacts

SelfharmUK

An online organisation that offers information, advice, support and training on the subject of self-harm. It is primarily focused on self-harming young people and those who work with them.

www.selfharm.co.uk

Alumina

An online course started by selfharmUK for young people aged between 14 & 18, to help them think about why they self-harm and what their next step might be. alumina.selfharm.co.uk/

Harmless

User-led organisation for people who self-harm and their friends and family.

www.harmless.org.uk

Samaritans

24 hour helpline which offers emotional support and a confidential listening service for anyone who needs to talk. Not just for those feeling suicidal.

www.samaritans.org

Phone : 116 123

Young Minds

Information for parents and young people about mental health and wellbeing.

www.youngminds.org.uk

020 7089 5050 (general enquiries) 0808 802 5544 (parents helpline)

When a child expresses a concern... Listen, listen, listen

When a child or young person talks about harm or abuse that they are suffering:

- Create a safe environment in which the child or young person can share their concerns
- React calmly so as not to further distress the child or young person
- Listen carefully to what the child or young person has to say
- Allow them time to say what they want
- Don't rush or interrupt them, or ask more questions than you need to in order to establish whether there is cause for concern, or to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said
- If you need to ask questions to clarify what the child is saying, always use open questions and not closed questions (e.g. "Who is it you are afraid of?" not "Is it Daddy you are afraid of?")
- As soon as you believe there is cause for concern allow the child to finish, but do not question them any further. Explain that you will have to tell someone who knows what to do next
- Accept what the child or young person says and take seriously what you are hearing
- Reassure the child or young person, and tell them that you know how difficult it must be to confide in you
- Tell the child or young person that s/he is not to blame and that s/he has done the right thing in speaking to you
- Help the child or young person to understand what is going to happen next – the child should be informed that other people will need to be told about the concerns which have been shared, and who those people may be
- Do not promise, or lead a child to believe, that any child protection concern which affects them or other children or young people will be kept confidential
- Be aware that a child or young person may be frightened and that they may have been threatened if they tell of what has been happening to them
- Remember that most children feel loyalty to their parents and other significant people in their lives and often find it difficult to say things to their detriment
- Make notes as soon as possible afterwards using the child's language and recording any questions that you asked to prompt for a response

Do's

- Listen and clarify
- Give support
- Explain what happens next
- Take action

Helpful Responses

- *"You have done the right thing in telling"*
- *"That must have been really hard"*
- *"I am glad you have told me"*
- *"It's not your fault"*
- *"I will help you"*

Don'ts

- Minimise
- Show shock, alarm or disapproval
- Question or push for information

- Offer false re-assurance

Unhelpful Responses (Don't Say)

- *"Why didn't you tell anyone before?"*
- *"I can't believe it!"*
- *"Are you sure this is true?"*
- *"Why? How? When? Who? Where?"*
- *"Never make false promises"*
- *Never make statements such as "I am shocked, don't tell anyone else"*

Summary

- ✓ Again reassure the child that they were right to tell you and show acceptance
- ✓ Let the child know what you are going to do next and that you will let them know what happens (you need to speak to someone you trust, i.e. the Designated Person for Safeguarding), and you might have to talk to some professional people (i.e. Social Services or the Police to prevent a child or young person returning home if you consider them to be seriously at risk of further abuse).
- ✓ Contact the Designated Person for Safeguarding at theBARN BIDFORD (Perce). If they aren't available then one of the Designated Safeguarding Officers.
- ✓ If the child or young person is in immediate danger (or other children/young persons) make contact directly with Social Services, the Police, or the NSPCC (Contact Details, see Appendix, p.99-101)
- ✓ Consider your own feelings and seek pastoral support if needed
- Don't ask questions – instead listen carefully to them
- Don't make promises you may not be able to keep e.g. not telling anyone else
- Accept what you hear without passing judgement or investigating
- Tell them what you are going to do (and in the case of an adult, consult them about their wishes)
- Make careful notes (i.e. what was said and in what circumstances) as soon as possible, preferably within an hour. Include dates and times and keep notes safely.
- Contact the Designated Person for Safeguarding, or, in their absence, take action yourself.
- It is important to remember when responding to an adult disclosing possible abuse that they have the right to decline further action in relation to themselves. However, there may be the potential for harm to be caused to others.

It is important that everyone is aware of clear procedures that should be followed if any concern arises about the welfare of a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult with children or young people.

If any concerns arise regarding the safeguarding of children, young people or adults at risk:

- Do not dismiss your concerns - in particular, do not ignore or dismiss concerns about a professional or a colleague
- Do not confront the adult about whose behaviour you have concerns
- Do not take responsibility for deciding whether or not child abuse is actually taking place
- Do not investigate allegations
- Do not act alone
- Do not take sole responsibility for what has been shared or any concerns you may have (always work through the church's procedures)
- Do follow the church's procedures for responding to concerns

Step 1: Record & Report

Step 2: Review & Refer

Step 3: Report & Support

1. Record & Report

**A worker has a concern about the welfare of a child/young person or the behaviour of an adult.
The person who has the concern has a duty to: RECORD AND REPORT**

A written record must be made of the concern using a standard incident report form and the concern should be reported to the Designated Person within 24 hours. If a child is in imminent danger of harm, a referral should be made to the police or Social Services without delay.

The duty of the person who receives information or who has a concern about the welfare of a child or young person is to **RECORD** their concerns in writing and to **REPORT** their concerns to the Designated Person. The report to the Designated Person should be made within 24 hours of the concern being raised.

The Duty to RECORD

As soon as possible after a child or young person tells you about harmful behaviour, or an incident takes place that gives cause for concern, a written record should be made. The record should:

- Be made as soon as possible after the event
- Be legible and state the facts accurately
 - If hand-written notes are typed up later, the original hand-written notes should be retained
- Include the child's full 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 and the demeanour of the child (perhaps using the Skin Maps (see Appendix, p.115))
- Include an exact record of what the child said using the child's words
- Include what was said by the person to whom the concerns were reported, including any questions asked

- 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 Designated Person
 - The church pastor as far as this is consistent with the welfare of the child/young person concerned and possible pastoral responsibilities to any others involved
 - Representatives of the professional agencies

Click [here](#) to view/print a copy of the **Incident Report Form** (see Appendix p.116-118)

Under no circumstances should a church worker carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to the Designated Person at theBARN BIDFORD

The Duty to REPORT

If anyone has a concern about the welfare of a child, that concern should be reported to the Designated Person without delay (within 24 hours). The report can be made in the first instance either in a face-to-face conversation or by telephone, but should always be followed up by submitting a written incident report.

If a child or young person is considered to be in imminent danger of harm a report should be made immediately to the police or Social Services. If such a report is made without reference to the Designated Person (because it was not possible to contact the Designated Person immediately), the Designated Person should be informed as soon as possible after the report has been made

If a child needs urgent medical attention an ambulance should be called or they should be taken to hospital, informing the parents/carers afterwards of the action that was taken. The hospital staff should be informed of any child protection concerns. They have a responsibility to pass these concerns on to the statutory authorities.

In the case of very severe sexual assault (such as rape), which may have occurred over the last few days, and where it has not been possible to get an immediate response from Social Services, contact the police in order to facilitate a medical examination by a designated police surgeon. This could provide evidence, which may be used in any criminal prosecution. (Older young people are able to decline such an examination if they are considered to be of sufficient age and understanding). Do not touch or tamper with any evidence, such as stained clothing.

Do not tell the parents/ carers; they could be involved. It is also important no one else who might be involved is inadvertently alerted to the situation because this may lead to the child being 'silenced'. Allegations of sexual abuse are usually denied and often difficult to prove. **Remember, the child's welfare must be the first consideration at all times.**

Should the Designated Safeguarding Person not feel it necessary to refer the matter to Social Services but the children's worker (or anyone else) has serious concerns for the child's safety, then the worker should contact the relevant authorities direct. The safety of the child over-rides all other considerations and it is important to remember that sexual abuse of children is a serious crime. The Baptist Union or Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service can advise in cases of difficulty.

It should be clear that the duty remains with the worker to record and report their concerns to the Designated Person. 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 report the concern to the Designated Person.

2. Review & Refer

The Designated Person receives the report of concern. The Designated Person has a duty to: **REVIEW & REFER**

The report will be reviewed by the Designated Person with any other relevant information and a decision will be taken (often in liaison with others) as to what action should follow. Any formal referral to Social Services should normally be made within 24 hours of receiving the report. If a child is in imminent danger of harm a referral should be made to the police or Social Services without delay.

The duty of the Designated Person on receiving a report is to REVIEW the concern that has been reported and to REFER the concern on to the appropriate people. If a child or young person is considered to be in imminent danger of harm a report should be made immediately to the police or Social Services.

The Duty to REVIEW

In reviewing the report that is received the Designated Person:

- Should take account of his/her own experience and expertise in assessing risk to children and young people
 - A person who works professionally in safeguarding children and young people will be more competent in making balanced judgments about reports
 - A person without professional expertise will need to take more advice from others with expertise in reviewing reports
- Must take account of other reports that may have been received concerning the same child, family or adult
- May speak with others in the church (including the Pastor(s)) who may have relevant information and knowledge that would impact on any decision that will be made
- Such conversations should not lead to undue delay in taking any necessary action and should be fully recorded
- May consult with their Regional Minister in order to seek guidance from their Association
- May seek advice from the local Social Services department or police in knowing how to respond appropriately to the concerns that have been raised.
- Social Services will be willing to discuss a case with the Designated Person without the need to divulge names or identities in order to offer guidance to the local church, however without sharing names or identities, information about that child or family vital to the decision making process may not be considered. If the advice of Social Services or the police is to make a formal referral, this advice should be followed.

The Duty to REFER

In reviewing the reported concern, the Designated Person must decide to whom the report should be referred. The Designated Person may:

- Refer back to the worker who made the initial report if there is little evidence that a child or young person is being harmed, asking for appropriate continued observation

- Refer the concern to others who work with the child/children in question asking for continued observation
- Speak directly to the adult about whom the concern has been raised
 - This may be the parent/carer of the child or it may be one of the children or young people's workers. If there is any question at all of possible sexual abuse or serious physical abuse the Designated Person should never address the adult directly but should refer their concerns to the police or Social Services. In these circumstances, to take the concern to the alleged perpetrator may place the child or young person at more risk, or could make any statutory investigation difficult to pursue because the child or young person may be intimidated.
- Make a formal referral to the local Social Services Department.

The Designated Person should keep a written record of all actions taken in reviewing and referring a concern. All original reports should be retained safely and securely by the Designated Person.

3. Report & Support

After the decision has been made as to what action should be taken the Designated Person and the Senior Pastor may have a duty to: **SUPPORT & REPORT**

Support should be offered to all parties affected by any safeguarding concerns and where formal referrals are made reports may need to be made to the local Association, the Independent Safeguarding Authority, the Charity Commission and potentially theBARN BIDFORD's Insurers.

Responsibilities in Stage 3 of the process are shared by the Designated Person and the Senior Pastor.

The Duty to REPORT

Whenever a formal referral is made to Social Services or the police the Designated Person should

- Report the referral to the Senior Pastor
- Report the referral to the Regional Minister of the local Association

In certain circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Person acting on behalf of the Trustees may also need to make further reports.

If an allegation is made against someone who works with children or young people, the allegation should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO is located within Social Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children or young people has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child or young person
- possibly committed a criminal offence against a child or young person, or related to a child or young person
- behaved towards a child or young person in a way that indicates they are unsuitable to work with children or young people

If a worker has been removed from their post or would have been removed from their post (had they not resigned or left the church) because of the risk of harm that they pose to children and young people there is a statutory duty to report the incident.

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

All those working with children and young people should be aware that if an allegation is made against them that is referred to the statutory authorities, they will normally be advised or required to withdraw from their responsibilities while an investigation is carried out. They may even be asked not to attend church during this period.

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. Even when formal referrals to the statutory authorities are not made, those who make reports will feel uncertain and vulnerable and support will need to be offered to them.

Child/Young Person

For the child/young person concerned, Social Services and other agencies may provide support and services. However, the church will have a role to play in complementing this support. The Designated Person should seek to work in partnership with other agencies, clarifying with them how best the church may be able to support the child/young person and to ensure that consistent help and support is being offered.

Other Family Members

The church may similarly be in a position to offer pastoral and practical support to family members who may find they are trying to cope with a variety of feelings.

Church Worker/Volunteer

Support and counselling should also be offered to those within the church who are involved in the incident. This could be the person who the child or young person shared their concerns with and the Designated Person. Consideration should be given within churches to ensure that no one person is responsible for dealing with safeguarding issues without the support of others.

Pastors/Leaders

Pastors and leaders should know to whom they would turn for support, advice and help when facing the pastoral demands of addressing a safeguarding issue. The Heart of England Baptist Association may be particularly helpful in this regard, which is why it is recommended that whenever a referral is made to the police or Social Services that the Regional Minister should be informed.

Responding to concerns about the behaviour of fellow workers.

The basic three-stage process outlined above should form the basis for responding to all concerns within the church regarding the welfare of children and young people. If anyone in the church believes that the behaviour of one of the workers is placing children or young people at risk of harm (whether that worker is paid or unpaid, is a relatively new volunteer or is a senior and experienced youth worker) there is a fundamental duty to **RECORD** and **REPORT**.

The nature of the behaviour of those who seek to harm children or young people is that they will rationalise their behaviour, they will make themselves extremely plausible and will be looking for ways in which it is possible to cross boundaries. It is therefore extremely difficult to tell the difference between the behaviour of someone who has inadvertently and innocently forgotten best practice for a moment and stepped over the line, and someone who is looking for the smallest opportunity to push at the boundaries. Consequently, it is important that all behaviour that crosses the line of what is acceptable or appropriate is challenged so that children and young people are never put at risk.

Case studies

- A worker takes a child into an empty room on their own to help get some equipment out of the cupboard.
- A group of young people are making fun of one of their friends because of their ginger hair. A young youth leader joins in the banter, not realising that the smiles of the young person hide an underlying resentment at the constant teasing.
- A group of young children have been misbehaving all evening. One of the children accidentally knocks over a pot of paint. The worker loses their cool and shouts at the child, calling them clumsy and useless.

It is probably not appropriate or necessary to report all of these incidents to the Designated Person – particularly if they are one-off events – but churches do need to develop a culture where there will be a proper and proportionate response to situations like this.

Workers need to be willing to point out to one another when their actions are inappropriate.

- “Did you realise that you just took a child on their own into an enclosed room?”

It is good practice for workers to meet together for a short time to de-brief after each session. This can be an occasion when the leader might remind members of the team about following good practice and highlighting any inappropriate behaviour.

- “It’s not a good idea to get involved in banter when N is being teased. He might appear to take it in good part, but you don’t know how he feels about being treated like that. We should be discouraging the other children from teasing.”

It is good practice following each session for the leader to make a note of any incidents such as the worker losing their cool about the spilled paint. This ensures transparency and also keeps a record that might be helpful if this turns out to be part of a recurring pattern of behaviour.

- “The children were misbehaving all evening. X lost their cool when a pot of paint was tipped over and shouted calling N clumsy and useless.”

The leader of a group must take seriously their responsibility to supervise the behaviour of the workers in their group and encourage all workers to develop the highest standards in their conduct

and in following the agreed code of conduct for workers. If a worker consistently ignores the code of conduct the leader should make arrangements for the worker to be more closely supervised until they can demonstrate that they are able to work within the framework of the church's Safeguarding Policy.

What should trigger a report being made to the Designated Person?

- All workers should feel able to make a report if they feel uncomfortable about the behaviour of any fellow worker
- All occasions where a worker causes harm to a child or young person or where the actions and behaviour of a worker poses a risk of harm to children and young people should be reported
- When a worker repeatedly breaches the code of conduct, whether or not it is thought to be wilful, a report should be made to the Designated Person

When the Designated Person receives any report expressing concern about the behaviour of a worker, Step 2 of the procedures for responding to concerns should be followed. All those working with children and young people should be aware that if an allegation is made against them that is referred to the statutory authorities, they will normally be advised or required to withdraw from their responsibilities while an investigation is carried out. They may even be asked not to attend church during this period. Whenever allegations are made against those working with children and young people, or action has to be taken because of the risk of harm to children and young people by workers, the Designated Person should be aware of the church's duty to report such matters to:

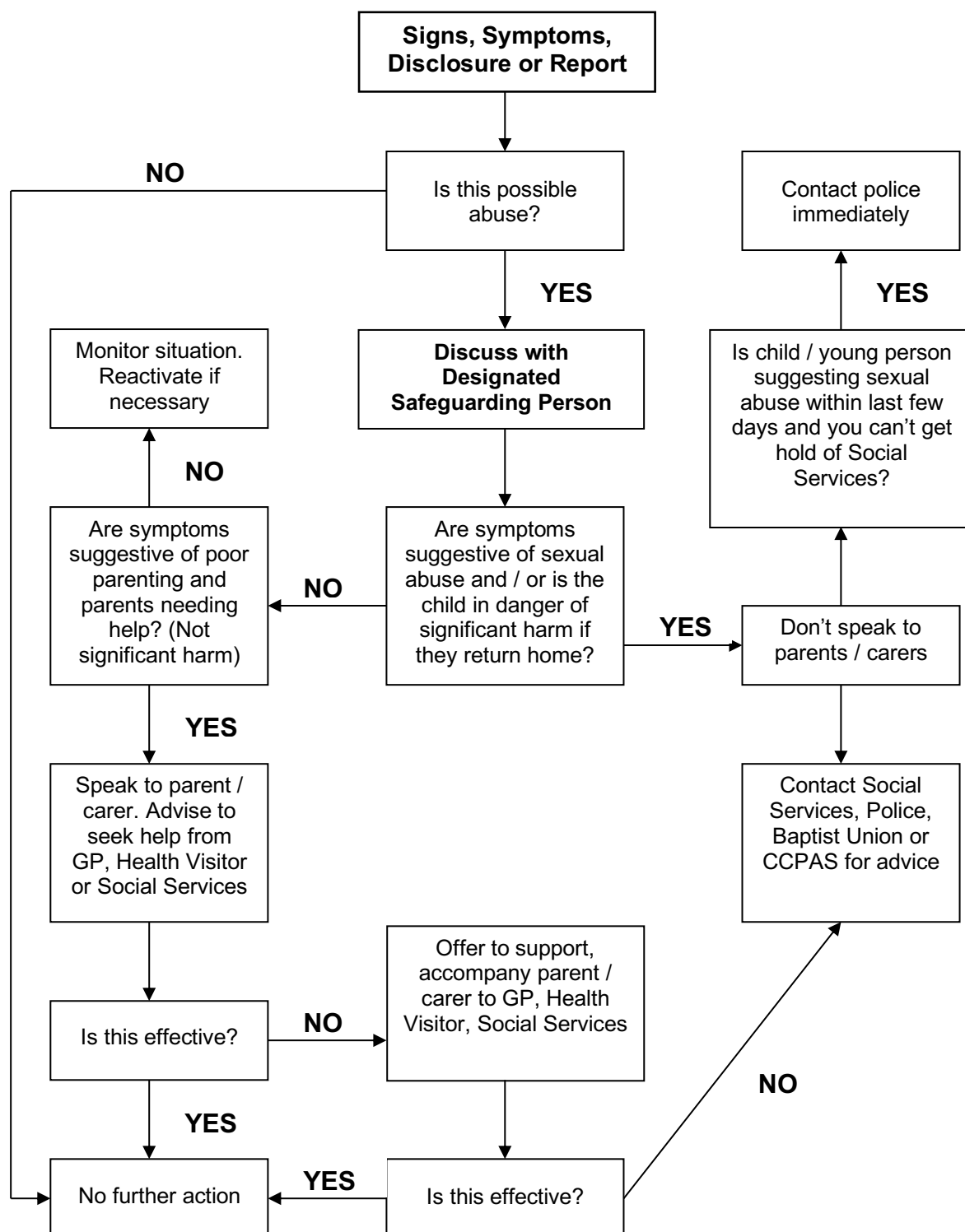
- LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

When the concern involves the Designated Person

If a concern is expressed about the behaviour of the Designated Person or a member of their family, then that concern must be raised with the Senior Pastor.

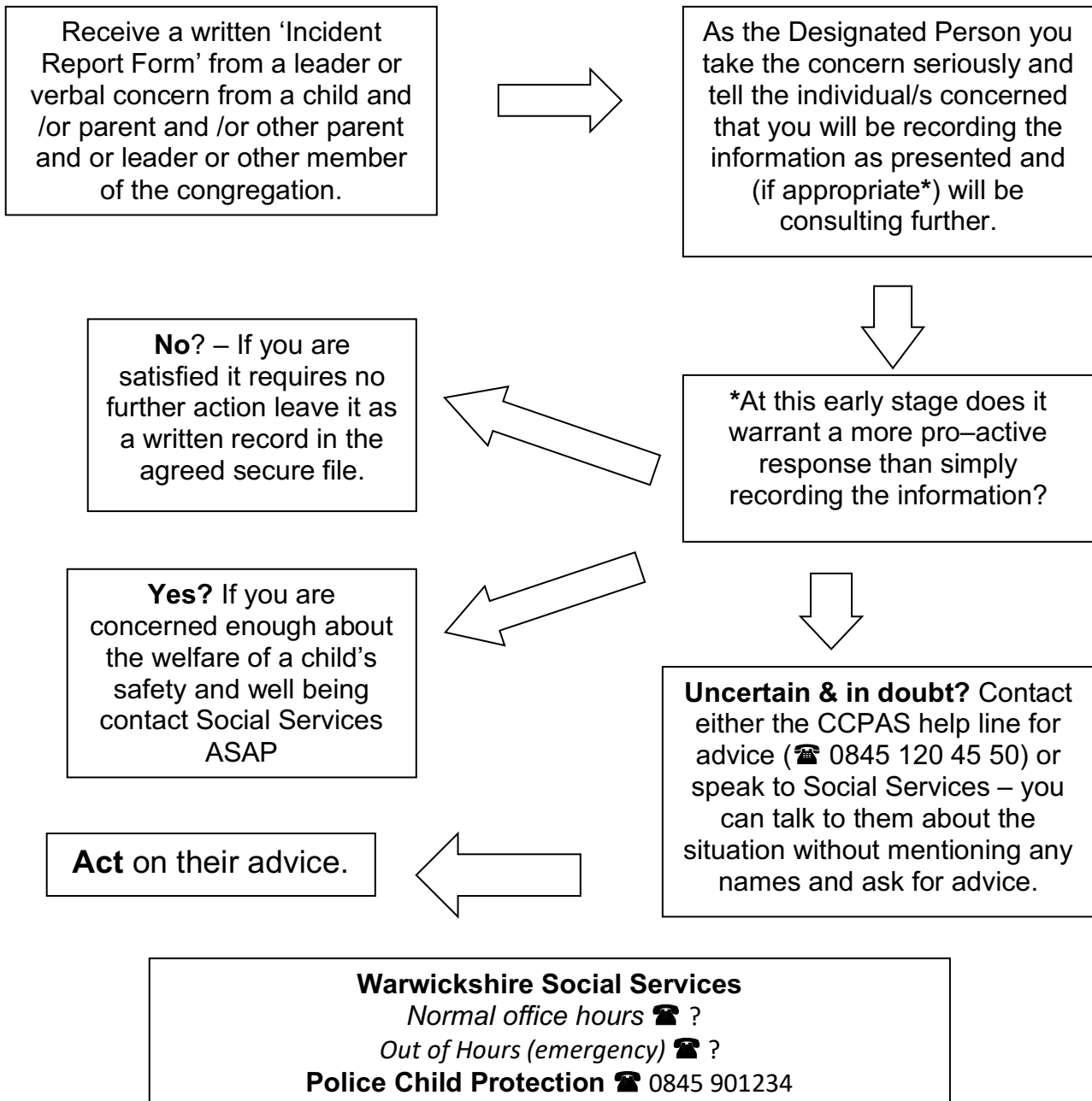
When concerns are expressed about the Pastor(s)

Whenever any concerns are expressed about the pastors, the concerns must be taken as seriously as if they were being expressed about any other person connected to the life of the church. Any safeguarding concerns involving a Pastor should always be reported immediately to the Regional Minister of your local Baptist Association in addition to following the church's normal procedures.



Designated Person for Safeguarding: Steps in Decision Making

This flow chart aims to give an outline of how the Designated Person will assess concerns, information and take any necessary steps. It's difficult to plan for every possibility or situation, however, the clear emphasis is on consulting with external (and objective) experts and being guided by their advice.



The Birchall Trust (<http://www.birchalltrust.org.uk/>) is a registered charity providing counselling for male and female adults, children and young people who are survivors of rape, sexual abuse and/or incest. The sexual abuse can be recent or historic. They have offices in Morecambe and Lancaster and can be reached by telephoning 01229 820828 or email info@birchalltrust.org.uk.

Christian Survivors are an active community for survivors of all types of abuse. Their aim is to create a safe oasis to provide friendship, understanding, and support to survivors of child abuse, sexual violence, rape, domestic violence, ritual abuse, trafficking, Spiritual abuse and all other forms of abuse. They believe that recovery from abuse is possible, they work hard to provide an environment of safe, mutual support, where they can help each other to come to a place of healing.

<http://www.christiansurvivors.com/>

Acorn Christian Trust believes that every person can be transformed through experiencing Jesus' love and care, and its calling is to make this a reality through their work of listening, healing and reconciliation. <http://www.acornchristian.org/>

Acorn lives out this calling in a variety of ways including providing training, giving direct support where it is needed, and through our prayer ministry. The headquarters at Whitehill Chase, Hampshire - a beautiful 19th century Hunting Lodge within several acres of peaceful gardens and woodlands - make an ideal location for the Acorn programme of retreats, courses and conferences.

MACSAS is a support group for women and men from Christian backgrounds who have been sexually abused by Ministers or Clergy, as children or as adults. They support both survivors who have remained within their Christian communities and those who have left. <http://www.macsas.org.uk/>

The Hope of Survivors take a faith-based, scriptural approach to helping victims understand the devastation of clergy sexual abuse and how they can receive healing and wholeness by God's grace. It is their mission and prayer that through their website, you will find answers and the truth about what's happening to you. <http://www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/>

Following a referral to Social Services or the police, a decision will be taken about the most appropriate way to respond to the concerns raised. In some situations, advice will be given about how the issues raised can be dealt with without the involvement of the statutory services and suggestions will be offered about how to access support from other agencies and services.

In circumstances where it is considered that a child is not at risk of significant harm but may benefit from assistance provided by Social Services, this will be acted upon where agreement is given by the parent to this assistance being given. However, in those situations where a safeguarding concern has been referred, Social Services have a duty in law to make enquiries whenever they have reasonable cause to believe that a child living in their area has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm from abuse or neglect. They work with children, young people, parents and other agencies to ensure the safety, protection and wellbeing of children and young people. The police work closely with Social Services when there are safeguarding concerns and particularly when a serious physical assault or a sexual assault might have occurred, or in cases of serious neglect.

The Designated Person may also be required by conditions of the Church Insurance Policy to immediately inform the Insurance Company. They may also be required as part of their denominational policy to inform strategic personnel within the Baptist Union of Great Britain **(BUGB) 01235 517700**

They may also be required as part of their community responsibility to inform the appropriate Safeguarding Co-ordinator in School, if disclosure occurs in school, and/or Social Services.

Contact details

Children and Families Help Desk

on 01452 426565 (during office hours), but if you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child please contact the Police on 101 at any time.

email to childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk

The local Social Services office telephone numbers between 9.00am and 5.00pm is noted above. The out of hour's emergency number is **01452 614194**

Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)

PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone **0845 120 4550** or alternatively contact Social Services..

The relevant Police Child Protection Team may be contacted if necessary.

It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen, to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies or seek advice from the Baptist Union or CCPAS, although THEBARN BIDFORD hope that members of the church will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Designated Person has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Designated Person(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency directly. We hope by making this statement that THEBARN BIDFORD demonstrate their commitment to effective Safeguarding.

The church should be a community that is welcoming and open to all. It is a place for people who have failed and for people in need. Those who have abused children and young people in the past are to be included in this welcome. However, the gospel imperative to welcome the sinner needs to be set alongside the gospel imperative that the protection of children and young people must be paramount.

We recognise the very particular challenge when it comes to those who sexually abuse children or young people. Current research suggests that sexual offending can be a kind of addiction whereby patterns of behaviour are deeply ingrained in the character of the person. However old the offence, ex-offenders continue to pose a very real threat to children and young people and this should be borne in mind when welcoming them into the church community. Experience has also shown that those who abuse children can be very persuasive in expressing remorse and in presenting themselves as people who are now living a different way of life. As abusers are often people who are able to get on well with children and young people and whom children and young people are ready to trust, the Christian community has too often misunderstood what it means to practise forgiveness and has entrusted such people with the care of children and young people.

At theBARN BIDFORD our guiding principle in these matters is to safeguard and protect children and young people. If an adult is a known offender, who has committed acts of violence or sexual offences against children or adults, they should not normally work with children again. This is in the interests of the child, and the person who has offended. An ex-offender might have accepted responsibility for their previous behaviour, be genuinely repentant and have responded positively to a programme of help, but it would be unacceptable to place children in a situation where there is a known risk (i.e. the abuser could succumb to temptation and re-abuse). This includes involvement in activities such as serving refreshments, driving the church minibus, or even greeting people at the door. However, we affirm that theBARN BIDFORD is a welcoming community of repentant sinners, therefore, any involvement in the life of the church should be in an area unconnected with children's and youth activities. The safety of a child is paramount when considering a worker's suitability for a job. No one has a right to work with children or young people.

When it is known that a person who has been convicted of sexually abusing children or young people is attending theBARN BIDFORD, it is important that their behaviour within the church community is properly managed and that a contract is put in place. There are also times when it will be appropriate to take such measures with a person who has faced a series of allegations about the sexual abuse of children and young people but has never been convicted (such allegations may be revealed on an Enhanced DBS Disclosure under relevant non-conviction information). If an offender is on the Sex Offenders' Register they will be monitored under guidelines known as the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). In the latest guidance there is provision to require a written contract to be in place if the offender wishes to attend a place of worship.

In determining the details of the contract:

- There should be a discussion about who should be informed of the nature of the offence and the details of the contract
 - The rights of the offender to re-build their lives without everyone knowing the details of their past offence should be balanced against the need to protect children and young people
 - The Designated Person for Safeguarding and the Pastor(s) should always be informed

- The Designated Person should determine whether the person is subject to supervision or is on the Sex Offenders' Register
 - If so, the Designated Person should make contact with the offender's specialist probation officer (SPO) who will inform the church ministers of any relevant information or restrictions that the church should be aware of.
- The Designated Person should inform and take advice from the Regional Minister in the local Baptist Association.

An open discussion must be held with the person concerned in which clear boundaries are established for their involvement in the life of the church. A written contract should be drawn up which identifies appropriate behaviour. The person should be required to sign the contract. The contract:

- will identify the meetings the person will attend
- will specify that they will always sit apart from children
- may ask that they are always accompanied by a befriender on church premises
- will require the person not to attend small group meetings where children or young people are present
- will require that the person declines hospitality where there are children or young people
- will state that the person will never be alone with children or young people while attending church functions
- will require the person to stay away from areas of the building where children or young people meet.

The contract should be monitored and enforced. Those who offend against children and young people can often be manipulative. If the contract is broken certain sanctions should be considered.

- If the initial contract allows the person to attend the morning service where children and young people are present, a new contract might require them only to attend an evening service.
- If only a few people know of the person's conviction, more people might be told in order to protect children and young people. In doing this a balance has to be made between protecting the civil liberties of the offender, the requirements of the Data Protection Act and the protection of children and young people. Any disclosure of the person's criminal background would need to be the minimum necessary to achieve the aim of safeguarding the children and young people in the church's care.
- Details about a convicted offender should be shared on a 'need to know' basis, with key individuals such as the Pastor(s), Designated Person for Safeguarding, Youth Ministry Leader and Children's Ministry Leader. Others may be informed on a 'need to know basis.' The information should be conveyed in such a way as to promote understanding and support to the individual, but at the same time ensure that other church members do not unwittingly allow children contact with them. There should be no gossiping or breaching of agreed boundaries of confidentiality.
- Although this sounds very formal, sex offenders are often manipulative people. This contract should involve the person's family and partner who may also be attending church and they will need to be kept informed. The contract could begin by setting out the pastoral support and care that is being offered but it will obviously need to be personalised to the individual concerned and in consideration of local circumstances.
- Ultimately, it might be necessary to ban the person from attending the church. If you are concerned that the person might join another church, you should not forewarn other local church leaders by giving details of the person concerned to all local churches. Rather you should ask other local church leaders to inform you if any new person joins their church. If

the person joins another fellowship it would be appropriate to indicate your concerns to this specific church leader. If the person is on the Sexual Offenders Register, the Designated Safeguarding Officer should make the offender's Specialist Probation Officer (SPO) aware that they have been banned from the church and reasons for this.

We will carefully consider the needs of an offender in order to be re-integrated into society in a way that protects children and young people. We may use what have become known as 'circles of support' for those offenders who are governed by a contract in the life of the church. The organisation [Circles UK](http://www.circles-uk.org.uk) has worked closely with criminal justice agencies in developing this significant initiative. (see <http://www.circles-uk.org.uk>).

Pastoral Care

When an allegation/suspicion arises in a church, a period of investigation will follow, which will be stressful for all involved. Support will need to be given to the suspected perpetrator without compromising the children or their families. This is one reason for limiting information in relation to allegations of abuse on a "need to know" basis. In this way leaders not privy to the detail are free to offer support to other parties, including the suspected perpetrator. Where an investigation is under way this support should be with the knowledge of the Statutory Agencies .

It may be necessary, for the sake of the child (or to satisfy the needs of an investigation) for the alleged perpetrator to worship somewhere else and in such cases the new church leaders will need to be informed of the reasons. This should enable the individual to receive as much support as possible, but at the same time enable the new church to consider their own child protection procedures.

Pastoral care for an alleged perpetrator, such as retaining contact, prayer, support, encouragement to seek legal advice and possibly accompanying to court hearings is important, but this should not be done at the expense of the victim, their family or of justice. The victim should not sense collusion or the taking of the perpetrator's side. There should be no minimising of what has been done (or alleged) or the denial of the perpetrator's responsibility.

The church can help by ensuring that one person is responsible for dealing with the authorities, another offers support to the victim and their family, and yet another gives pastoral care to the alleged perpetrator. It may be necessary to appoint yet another person to support the perpetrator's family.

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

Repentance and Forgiveness

Placing restrictions on a sex offender is sometimes seen as a denial of God's universal forgiveness, grace and restitution, particularly when the individual seems genuinely repentant. Whilst it would be wrong to deny the efficacy of biblical truth, it is important to remember there is no sure and objective test to guarantee this has happened. An individual's testimony may or may not be true. It must be remembered also that paedophilia is addictive in nature and putting temptation in the way of a sex offender by allowing them contact with children could lead to further offences being committed. The apostle Paul unequivocally supports this principle when he issues an instruction in 1 Corinthians 6:18 to 'flee from sexual immorality' in the best interests of the potential offender as

well as the victim. Children must not be put in the path of a sex offender as a test to see if they are 'free' from their sexual tendencies.

One indicator that repentance is genuine would be an acceptance of and compliance with their contract with the church and even an offer by the offender to contribute towards the cost of therapy for their victim(s). Taking risks with a child's safety, however small, is at the very least unwise. Ignoring the basic principles of protecting children could reap serious consequences for the lives of children and a worshipping congregation.

Social Services Department

Warwickshire Gloucestershire Child Protection Unit, Gloucestershire Social Services, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 2TG. Tel: (Office Hours) 01425 425144. Tel: (Out of Hours) Police Child Protection 0845 901234.
email: speakout@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Police Child Protection Team

Warwickshire Emergency: 999
Non-emergency: 101
Non-emergency email: contactus@warwickshire.police.uk

Insurance Company

Baptist Insurance Company, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ.
Tel: 0345 070 2223.
email: enquiries@baptist-ins.com

Church Information, Contact Details.

Regular Place of Meeting & Worship

theBarn Bidford, Avon House, Waterloo Road, Bidford-on-Avon, Warks, B50 4JN. Tel: 01789 772615.
email : bidford@thebarn.org.uk

Designated Person

Richard 'Perce' Pirson : Tel : 07815 467207
email : perce@thebarn.org.uk

Senior Pastor

Jamie Cox, theBarn Bidford, Waterloo Rd, Bidford-on-Avon, Aarks, B50 4JN
Tel: 07528 526876.
email: jamie@thebarn.org.uk

Children's Pastor

Faith Lamb
email: faith@thebarn.org.uk

Pre-School Pastor

Claire Griffiths
email: claire@thebarn.org.uk

Youth Ministry Leader

Mary Keyte
email: mary@thebarn.org.uk

Herat of England Baptist Association

Rev Alison McKay
email: am@baptist-heartofengland.org

National Emergency Helplines

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

0808 800 5000 (free 24 hour service)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/nspcc-helpline/>

Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)

0845 120 4550

<https://www.ccpas.co.uk/provide/helpline>

Childline

(a free 24 hour helpline for children) Phone : 0800 1111

<https://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

CEOP : Online Safety

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Disclosure and Barring Service Contacts

Due Diligence Checking Ltd (DDC)

<https://www.ddc.uk.net/baptists/>

Phone: 0845 644 3298

Disclosure and Barring Service

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>
customerservices@db.s.gsi.gov.uk

Phone : 0300 0200 190

Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)

www.ccpas.co.uk

0845 120 4550

PO Box 113, Swanley

Kent BR8 7UQ

As well as offering a full advisory service to members CCPAS has a range of resources and publications available for download and purchase.

Circles UK

www.circles-uk.org.uk

0118 950 0068

Abbey House, Abbey Square

Reading RG1 3BE

Circles UK works to create Circles of Support and Accountability in which sex offenders are enabled to reintegrate responsibly into the community. Circles works in partnership with criminal justice agencies.

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

020 7825 2500

Weston House, 42 Curtain Road

London EC2A 3NH

The NSPCC offers advice and a range of resources to safeguard children and young people.

Working Together to Safeguard Children

The latest statutory guidance from HM Government (March 2015)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working Together to Safeguard Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

Sanctuary

www.ccpas.co.uk/sanctuary

0844 357 6573

PO Box 8953

Chelmsford CM2 9WM

Sanctuary was an independent charity which is now a project of CCPAS and exists to help churches safely to support sexual offenders.

Safe Network

www.safenetwork.org.uk

The Safe Network is jointly managed by NSPCC and Children England and was created as a result of the Government's Staying Safe action plan. The website provides resources to help organisations reflect on their safeguarding policies and procedures and gives access to training for not-for-profit organisations.

Charity Commission

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority,
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aala/index.htm>

Institute for Outdoor Learning,
<http://www.outdoor-learning.org/>

British Safety Council,
<https://www.britsafe.org/>

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents,
<http://www.rospa.com/>

Appendix

Forms and Other Documents relating to theBarn Bidford's Safeguarding Policy

RISK ASSESSMENT for	
----------------------------	--

Carried out by _____

Date _____

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION

First Aid Kit is located	
First Aid Kit is checked and replenished by	
Accident Book is located	
Fire & Evacuation details are written	
Mobile Phone Number of Team Leader	

Parental Consent & Medical Form (under 18's)

This form must be completed by a parent/guardian in order for the child/young person to participate in the group, event or activity. A '*' indicates a response is required.

1. Group/s Attended * *(please tick the relevant box/es)*

- ☐ thePod
- ☐ theLaunchpad
- ☐ theBasecamp
- ☐ theSummit
- ☐ Fuel for Youth
- ☐ Fusion Fridays
- ☐ Explorers
- ☐ Other _____

2. Personal Details & Contact Information

Full name of Child / Young Person*

Name by which the child/young person chooses to be known *

Date of birth (DD/MM/YY) *

Gender of your child/young person *(please tick)* *

☐ Female

☐ Male

Address *

Postcode*

Main Contact email address *

With whom does the child / young person live? *

Relationship to child/young person *

3. Parental Responsibility *(who has parental responsibility for the child/young person?)*

Please state the name(s) of the parent/s or person/s with parental responsibility *

Contact Phone Numbers *

Address (if different to section 2 above)

Contact Phone Number

The person to contact in case of emergency is:

Name *

Relationship to child/young person *

Address (if different to section 2 above)

Contact Phone Number *

Additional Contact : *should the person above not be available, please contact...*

Name *

Relationship to child/young person *

Contact Phone Number *

4. Medical Information

Name of Doctor *(where the child/young person is registered)* *

Surgery Phone Number *

Surgery Name & Address *

Whilst in our care it is important to know whether your child/young person...
(please complete as accurately as possible)

Date of last Tetanus injection*

Does your child.... *(please give all relevant / applicable information)*

Suffer from any allergies ...? (e.g. medicine, food, insects) *

☐ No ☐ Yes *(if yes, please give details)*

Is on any medication? *

☐ No ☐ Yes *(if yes, please give details)*

Has any health condition, disability or special educational need that we should know about...? *

☐ No ☐ Yes *(if yes, please give details)*

In an emergency and/or if I cannot be contacted, I am willing for my child to receive necessary medical, hospital or dental treatment, including anaesthetic. *

☐ Yes ☐ No

If any of these details alter or change, please let the group leader know as soon as possible.

5. Image Consent

On occasions we may use photos and videos for the purposes of recording our event. These images may appear in our printed publications, on our Cornerstone church's websites, social media pages and in weekend services.

Please indicate, as appropriate, to let us know whether or not you give consent for your child's image to be used for any of the following ways.

Printed Publications* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Website* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Church Social Media* ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Declaration

Please note that this declaration must only be made by those with parental responsibility and authority for the child/young person relevant to this consent form.

I understand that this form, and therefore the information given, will be held securely by the team leader and will be made available to other leaders of the group as appropriate.

I understand that separate permission/consent will be sought for certain activities, including swimming, and outings lasting longer than the normal meeting times of the group.

I give permission for my child to take part in the normal activities of this group *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please state if there are any activities that you require your child/young person to be excluded from...?

Your Full Name :

Signed (*parent or adult with parental responsibility*) *

Date *

Thank you for completing this Consent Form and signing the Declaration.

Please return the completed and signed form to the Group Leader as soon as possible.

If any details change (contacts, phone numbers, health etc.) please let the Group Leader know.

Transporting Children & Young People Consent Form

TheBarn Bidford are on occasions willing to provide transport for children to and from their homes and/or for specific activities. This transport will be in a minibus or car and the following principles will be adhered to:

- All drivers will be recruited under the guidelines of the Safeguarding Policy at THEBARN BIDFORD. THEBARN BIDFORD reserves the right to have undertaken a DBS Disclosure for drivers.
- Transport will be provided in vehicles that are roadworthy i.e. MOT and appropriate insurance.
- All minibus drivers are over 25 years of age and have held a full driving licence for at least 3 years.
- Seat belts will be worn at all times by all occupants of the vehicle.

I give permission for my child(ren) to be transported to and from the activity.

I understand that my child(ren) will be transported to/from the usual meeting place of the group.

Name of Child(ren) : _____ (please print)

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY) : _____

Address:

Contact Phone Number / Mobile : _____

Your name _____ (please print)

Signed: _____ (parent/adult with parental responsibility)

Date: (DD/MM/YY) _____

The information requested on this form can be completed by a carer, but only those with parental responsibility can sign the consent (N.B. This may not include a foster carer).

Swimming Trip Consent Form

This form must be completed by a parent/guardian in order for the child/young person to participate in the swimming trip.

Name of Child / Young Person : _____ (please print)

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY): _____

Gender of your child Female ☐ Male ☐ (please tick)

Address (including postcode): _____

Name of Parent / Carer: _____

Parent / Carer Contact Phone Number / Mobile : _____

Please provide details of an additional person we can contact on your behalf in case of an emergency.

Name : _____

Relationship to your child/young person : _____

Contact Phone Number : _____

Swimming Ability (please tick)

Is your child able to swim 50 metres? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is your child confident in a pool? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is your child confident in the sea or in open inland water? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is your child safety conscious in water? Yes ☐ No ☐

Medical & Other Information

Please give details of any regular medication, medical problem (e.g. asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, allergies, dietary needs etc.) or disability which may affect the swimming activity and/or activity where being able to swim is essential...

Date of last tetanus injection (if known) _____

Declaration

I understand that while involved he/she will be under the control and care of the group leader and/or other adults approved by theBarn Bidford's leadership and that, while the leaders in charge of the group will take all reasonable care of the children, they cannot necessarily be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury suffered by my child during, or as a result of, the activity.

I give permission for my child to take part in the specified visit and, having read the information provided, agree to him/her taking part in the activities described.

Yes ☐ No ☐

I confirm that my child is in good health and I consider her/him fit to participate

Yes ☐ No ☐

In an emergency, and/or if I'm not contactable, I am willing for my child to receive emergency medical care, hospital or dental treatment including an anaesthetic.

Yes ☐ No ☐

To complete this Declaration/Consent Form please write your full name, sign and date the Form.

Your Full Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for completing this Swimming Consent Form.

Please return it as soon as possible to the Group Leader.

*The information you've provided on this form will be taken by the group leader on the visit.
A copy should be retained on the church premises for emergency use.*

(page 2 of 2)

THEBARN BIDFORD Swimming Trip Consent Form
July 2017

Incident Report Form
Step 1 Record and Report

to be completed by the person who has concerns/heard allegations etc.

Date of incident:

Time of incident:

Name of Worker	
Name of Group / Event	
Name of Child / Young Person	
Date of Birth (or Age if DOB not known)	

Full written record of the incident/concern/allegation/disclosure:

This should include...

- sequence of events
- the exact words of the child where possible
- any observations
- what your response was to the person
- description of the injury (if necessary use the skin map diagram to draw the location, shape etc. on p.3)
- action taken (including person/s contacted)

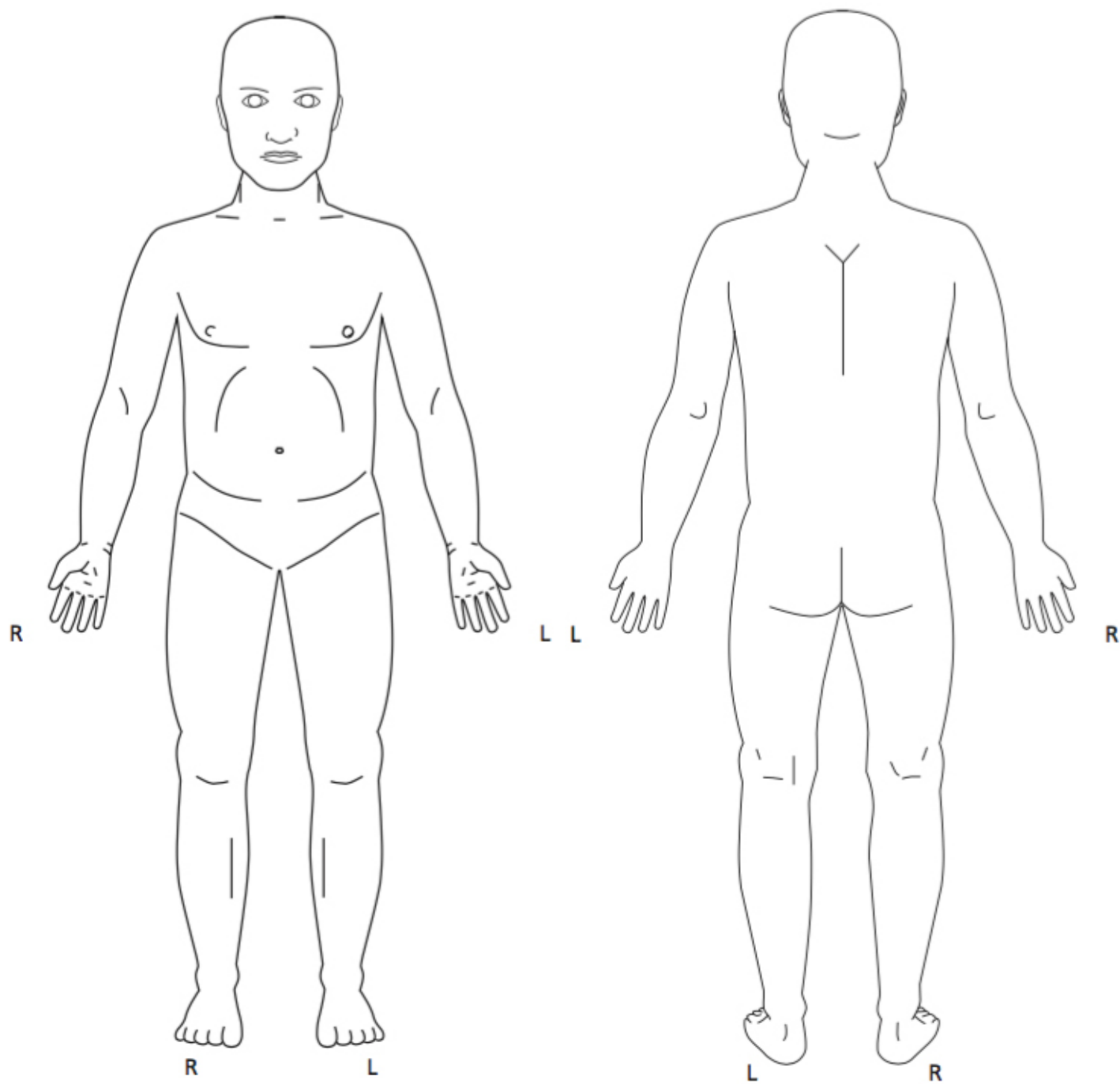
(if this has already been written up on a separate piece of paper please attach your original notes to this report)

(written record continued from page 1)

Date of incident:

Name of worker:

Name of child/young person:



Application Form for Voluntary Work Children & Young People

Before beginning work with children and young people within theBarn Bidford, we ask all prospective workers with children, young people and adults at risk to complete this form. If there is insufficient room to fully answer any question, please continue on separate sheet. The information will be kept confidentially by theBARN BIDFORD, unless requested by an appropriate authority.

It will help us to understand your Christian journey, any relevant experience and the reasons you want to take up this opportunity of serving.

In order to offer the appropriate protection to children and young people we will need to ensure that there is nothing in your past that indicates that you might pose a risk to their safety. To this end we ask you to make a declaration about your criminal record and also apply for a Disclosure from the DBS.

1. Personal Details

Full Name:

Other names by which you've been known previously:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone Number:

Mobile:

email:

How long have you lived at the above address?

Years

If less than 3 years, please give the previous address(es) with dates (DD/MM/YY)

From

To

From

To

Address:

Address:

Postcode:

Postcode:

2. Experience & Skills

Please tell us about your Christian experience (i.e. how long have you been a Christian, which church(es) have you attended (with dates), any activities undertaken):

Please give details of previous experience of looking after or working with children and/or young people. Please include details of any relevant qualifications or appropriate training either in a paid or voluntary capacity:

Do you suffer, or have you suffered any illness which may directly affect your work with children or young people? *(Please tick)*

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please give details:

3. Criminal Records Declaration

Because of the nature of the duties this role and 'post-holder' would be expected to undertake, the successful candidate will be required either to make a full declaration of their past criminal record or will be asked to co-operate in obtaining a Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We do not wish to prevent all people with past criminal convictions from working with children and young people in the church. Only relevant convictions will be taken into account – that is, convictions that suggest that a person might be a risk to children's or young people's safety.

Do you agree to make a full declaration of your criminal record and to obtain a DBS check?
(please tick)

☐ Yes

☐ No

*Please note that this information will be treated in the strictest confidence.
(page 2 of 3)*

4. References

Please give the names, addresses and phone numbers, and role or relationship of two people who know you well, who would be able to give a personal reference and comment on your character and work with the church. At least one referee should be external to the church.

If you have experience working with children and/or young people, at least one referee should be a colleague with whom you have worked. If you have moved from another church in the past five years, one referee should be from your previous church. In addition, we reserve the right to take up character references from any other individuals deemed necessary.

1. Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Connection with you:

2. Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Connection with you:

5. Declaration

Have you ever had any concerns expressed to you about your conduct with children and young people? *(please tick)*

☐ No

☐ Yes *(if yes, please give details)*

Have you ever had a position of work with children and young people declined?

☐ No

☐ Yes *(if yes, please give details)*

Have you ever been involved with police or social services in regard to children, either in this country or abroad?

☐ No

☐ Yes *(if yes, please give details)*

I confirm that the submitted information is correct and complete.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Full Name (please print):

Signed:

Date:

(page 3 of 3)

Volunteer Agreement

Name of Volunteer:

Name of Group/Team:

Age Range:

Team Leader (i.e. the person to whom your responsible) and who will provide your primary support:

Usual range of work/tasks to be undertaken:

You will be required to help nurture young people spiritually through personal example, guidance, appropriate teaching and correction.

(please tick as appropriate)

- ☐ Some planning will be required which will take a minimum of approximately [] hour/s per session.
- ☐ You would also be expected to attend one regular leaders' meeting each term and other occasional meetings as called.
- ☐ You will be required to work on Sunday mornings with the approximate time commitment being 2½ hours. The usual timings, allowing for preparation and clearing up are approximately 9.30 am to 12.00 pm.
- ☐ You may be asked to assist at other additional ad hoc events and meetings.
- ☐ You will be required to attend Safeguarding Training and have a working understanding of the church's Safeguarding Policy.

You are part of a team which, together with the whole church, commits itself to the care and nurture of children, young people and adults at risk.

On behalf of the members of the Church, we undertake to support you and your work, by prayer, by our interest, and by providing resources and training. We want to help you give the best possible service to your group, therefore your Team Leader is available on an informal basis and will meet with you to help you reflect on your ministry, and, if you wish to continue, will discuss your training and development as appropriate.

All appointments are made for a probationary period of six months.

Working with children and young people is a responsibility, but it also brings great rewards. We hope you will enjoy your work.

Signed :

Date:

(Pastor, Children's Ministry Leader, Youth Ministry Leader)

To Be Completed By the Worker with Children/Young People

- I confirm that I have read relevant portions of the church's Safeguarding Policy.
- I understand that it is my duty to protect the children and young people with whom I come into contact.
- I agree to abide by the policies and procedures described in the Safeguarding Policy
- I understand the nature of the work I am to do.
- I agree to make every reasonable effort to attend both Safeguarding training and other appropriate training events.

Signed :

Date:

Abuse	64	Continuing to self-harm after disclosure	74	Guidelines for Non-Medical/Non-Nursing Staff for Administration of Pre-Loaded Adrenaline Injection	57
Abuse of Trust	40, 42	Counselling	53	Guidelines for visiting	49
Accountability	60	Data Protection Act	34	Handling	32
Acorn Christian Trust	88	Data Protection Principles	34	Handling Disclosure Information	32
Action on Elder Abuse National Helpline	72	Data Protection, Human Rights and Safeguarding	35	Harmless	76
Advice for Discipline	44	DBS Checks	29	Health and Safety	17
Age of consent	67	DBS Customer Services	32, 95	Help for Those Who Have Been Abused	88
All Age Community	13	DDC	29	Helpful Responses	77
All-Age Services	15	Deacons	12	Hiring the Church	16
Alumina	76	Definitions of Abuse	64	Hope of Survivors	88
Anaphylactic Reactions	57	Designated Person	94	Information Commissioner	35
Anaphylaxis	57	Designated Person for Safeguarding	12	Instagram	61
Appendix	98	Steps in Decision Making	87	Institute for Outdoor Learning	97
Applying for a DBS	30	Digital Dignity	63	Insurance Company	94
Appointing Volunteers	36	dignity	24	Key Contacts	76
Appointing Young Leaders	38	Discipline	44	Known Offender	90
Appropriate Physical Contact	45	Disclosure and Barring Service Contacts	95	LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)	85
Baptist Insurance Company	94	Disclosure requirements	76	Listen, listen, listen	77
Baptist Union of Great Britain	89	Disposal	32	Listening	53
Behaviour Codes	24	Disruptive Children	46	Listening to Children	52
Being Alone with Young People	58	Do's	77	Looking after yourself	75
Birchall Trust	88	Domestic Abuse	69	MACSAS	88
British Safety Council,	97	Domestic Violence	69	Maintaining Distance	60
CCBC's Policy	10	Don'ts	77	Medical Form	100
CCPAS	95	Due Diligence Checking	29	Men's Advice Line and Enquiry	72
CEOP		Duty to RECORD	79	Messy Church	15
Online Safety	95	Duty to REFER	81	Mini-bus	52
Charity Commission	96	Duty to REPORT	80, 82	Ministers	94
Checklist for Residential Activities	21	Duty to REVIEW	81	Ministers/Deacons	83
Child Prostitution	68	Duty to SUPPORT	83	Mobile phones	62
Child/Young Person	83	Electronic Communication	39, 61	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)	90
Childline	95	e-mail	61	Musical Production	16
Children	64	Emotional Abuse	64	National 24-hour Domestic Violence Helpline	72
Children and Families Help Desk	89	Equal Opportunities	33	National Domestic Violence Helpline	70
Children at Home	49	Ex-Offenders	90	National Emergency Helplines	95
Children from 'the Street'	48	Facebook	62	Neglect	64
Children's Ministry Leader	12	Family Services	15	NSPCC	96
Children's Ministry Leader	94	First Aid	56	NSPCC Child Protection Helpline	95
Christian Survivors	88	First Aid Training	56	Offenders Behaviour Contract	90
Church Information, Contact Details	94	Flow Chart for Action	86	Online grooming	66
Church Vision	8	General Safeguarding Advice and Guidance	96		
Church Worker/Volunteer	83	Good Behaviour	44		
Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)	89, 95	Good Practice	26		
Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)	96	Grooming	65		
Circles UK	92, 96	Groups, Visitors & Guests	15		
Common causes of self-harm	73	Guidelines	44		
Complying with Data Protection	34	Guidelines and Good Practice	34		
Confidentiality	54, 60				
Contents	2				

Organised Abuse.....	68	Safeguarding Policy.....	16	Transporting Children.....	50
Other Family Members.....	83	Safeguarding Policy Statement...	8	Transporting Children & Young People Consent Form.....	104
Other User Groups.....	16	Safeguarding Team	11	Transporting Young People.....	50
Outings.....	20	Samaritans.....	76	Trustees.....	12
Overnight Events	20	Sanctuary.....	96		
		Sara Oram	30	Understanding Abuse.....	64
Parental consent.....	20, 53	Self Harming	72	Unhelpful Responses (Don't Say)	78
Parental Consent	25, 100	SelfharmUK.....	76	Unplanned Occasions When a Worker is Alone with Children or Young People	58
Pastoral Care	53, 55, 92	Sex Offenders' Register	90	Usage.....	32
Photography.....	63	Sexual Abuse.....	65	Using secrets and intimidation to control children	66
Physical Abuse	65	Sexual Exploitation.....	65		
Police Child Protection Teams ...	94	Significant Harm.....	67	Venue	60
Possible Indicators of Self-Harm	73	Signs of Abuse.....	68	Verifier.....	31
Providing Support	75	Sleeping arrangements	20	Visiting.....	49
		SMS	61	Volunteer Agreement.....	113
		Snapchat.....	62	Volunteers from Overseas.....	41
Race, Culture and Religion	68	social networking.....	61		
Ratios	22	Social Networking	62	Ways that harm might be discovered.....	69
reasons people give for self- harming	72	Special Needs.....	47	Who causes harm to children? .	67
Recognising Domestic Abuse.....	69	Spiritual Abuse.....	66	Working One to One	59
Recognition	59	Storage and Access	32	Working Together to Safeguard Children.....	96
Record and Report.....	79	Suicidal Feelings.....	74	Working with Offenders	90
Recruitment.....	27	Suicide	75		
Regular Places of Meeting & Worship	94	Summary	78	Young Adult Leaders 18 Years and Over	39
Repentance and Forgiveness.....	92	Sunday services.....	14	Young Leaders Under 16 and 18 Years of Age	38
REPORT AND SUPPORT	82	Supervision	28, 60	Young Minds	76
Responding to Self-Harm	74	Support.....	28	Youth Ministry Leader	12, 94
Restored	72	Supporting Young Leaders.....	38		
Retention.....	32	Survivors of child abuse.....	88		
Review and Refer.....	81	Swimming Trip Consent Form.	105		
Risk Assessment.....	18				
		Talking to Children	52		
Safe Community	10	Text	61		
Safe Network.....	96	The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority,.....	97		
Safe Practice.....	17	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents,.....	97		
Safe Recruitment	27	Training	28		