



# ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY DOCUMENT

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# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy



## Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Who is an Adult at Risk?.....	2
3.	Who has responsibility for Safeguarding Adults at Risk? .....	2
4.	What is Adult Safeguarding and why it matters?.....	3
5.	Values.....	3
6.	Who Abuses and Neglects? .....	3
7.	Best Practice Measures to minimise the possibility of Abuse occurring.....	4
8.	Practical Measures to prevent Accusation.....	5
9.	Recognising Signs and Signals of Possible Abuse and Abusers .....	6
10.	Managing Concerns.....	7
11.	Confidentiality .....	8
12.	Who to go to with a Safeguarding Concern .....	9
13.	Guidance on use of social media for communication.....	9
14.	Policy Adoption.....	9

## Appendix

1.	Safeguarding incident form.....	10
2.	Responding to a report about actual/suspected abuse.....	13
3.	Key contacts .....	14
4.	Types of abuse and neglect .....	15
5.	Key point on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 .....	18
6.	Safeguarding alerts.....	19
7.	Temporary vulnerability due to a First Aid incident .....	20

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Church seeks to follow the example of Christ, to obey His commands, by bringing the love and Gospel of Christ to those in our community who are vulnerable and may be adults at risk. We seek to ensure that all such persons coming within our ministry are kept safe from any form of abuse and are afforded the dignity and respect that Christ Himself gave to the vulnerable with whom He came into contact.
- 1.2. The underlying ethos of all our work and of this policy is the biblical teaching that each human being is made in the image of God, so no-one will be looked down upon. Neither will any have to live in fear of harm or suffer discrimination, thus all will respect the needs and rights of others. The Bible is full of exhortations to provide for and protect the needy and vulnerable.
- 1.3. The aim of the policy and procedures is to protect the adults at risk in our care, and to provide a safe environment for them and for those Leaders in managing a particular ministry.
- 1.4. Leaders are defined as Employees of Cheam Baptist Church, or Church Members who have the responsibility for managing a specific ministry, or Church or congregation members who volunteer to help lead a specific ministry.
  - o *Adult abuse occurs irrespective of a person's race or ethnicity, class, sexuality, age, religion, mental or physical ability.*
  - o *All adults at risk will be provided for in a manner that respects the rights, dignity, privacy and beliefs of all individuals concerned and does not discriminate on the basis of race, culture, religion, language, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation.*
- 1.5. The trustees require that all Leaders, relevant employees and volunteers read and accept the following policy and procedures. They must also sign a statement that they have read and accepted it in full, and that they are happy to work within these constraints.
- 1.6. The Care Act 2014 reforms the law relating to care and support for adults and carers, and it makes provision for safeguarding adults from abuse and neglect. The Act supersedes other legislation and it is this Act that local authorities have a duty to work to when dealing with safeguarding adults. (See note 1 for a link to the Care Act for more information.)
- 1.7. People who work with vulnerable adults will understand the idea of 'contextual safeguarding'. Vulnerable adults are influenced by and involved with a whole range of environments and people outside that of their carers, of which a church ministry is one. Vulnerable adults may encounter risks in any of these environments and this can affect their behaviour and actions within the church environment. Contextual safeguarding also highlights the significance of our work among vulnerable adults as one area of influence in their life that could play a significant part in a much bigger picture, and potentially lead to our involvement with other agencies or organisations.

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

## 2. Who is an Adult at Risk?

'Adults at Risk' includes those who are living with severe and enduring mental illness, have learning disabilities or autism, are known to have severe physical disabilities or sensory impairments, live with Dementia, struggle with substance misuse and addiction, live alone who are lonely and isolated, or are homeless, have no fixed abode or are seeking asylum.

People may be 'at risk' for different, sometimes overlapping, reasons. Churches are often in a position to support and protect people. Safeguarding adults at risk means protecting an individual's right to live in safety. It requires organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience. It involves supporting people to protect themselves, where possible, enabling them to make informed choices and take control of their own lives. Safeguarding adults is not only about the prevention of abuse and protection from harm – it is also about making sure that the individual's wellbeing is promoted and their views, wishes, feeling and beliefs are respected.

There are times when an adult may be temporarily vulnerable due to an incident where they have received First Aid. (See Appendix 7 for more information).

The Care Act states that safeguarding duties apply to any adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs) and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

## 3. Who has responsibility for Safeguarding Adults at Risk?

The Care Act makes it clear it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to deal with enquiries or to delegate that task to another agency if it believes an adult is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect. The Local Authority will also seek to determine the person's capacity to make decisions in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005. (See Appendix 5 for more information). The Care Act lays down 6 key principles:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

These principles will underpin all that is done to safeguard adults at risk. The Local Authority will always have the individual's well-being in mind when making decisions or planning services for them.

However, it is every Leader's responsibility to be aware of different types of abuse and to raise concerns if they suspect or know of an adult experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

## 4. What is Adult Safeguarding and why it matters

- 4.1. The Care Act states that safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. At the same time, it is important to promote the adult's well-being and, where appropriate, have regard for their views, wishes and feelings in deciding on appropriate action.
- 4.2. The aims of adult safeguarding are to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, wherever possible, or reduce the risk of it happening. It is important to treat the adult at risk with dignity and respect.

## 5. Values

- 5.1. Where adults at risk are clearly able to make choices, they must be advised of the options available to them and their wishes respected, unless, exceptionally, a statutory responsibility to intervene arises or there is a risk to others. If agencies are to enable people to experience both the opportunities and challenges of an 'ordinary life', some risk-taking is essential. In jointly determining appropriate action, every effort must be made to enable adults at risk to express their wishes in a way that is appropriate. Basic human and civil rights must be respected.
- 5.2. All support provided by Leaders is underpinned by the principles set out in the Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Human Rights Act 1998. Where an individual has capacity, they must retain the right to make decisions that might appear eccentric or unwise to others. Where an individual does not have capacity, any action taken on their behalf must be the least restrictive of their basic rights and freedoms. (See Appendix 5)

## 6. Who Abuses and Neglects?

- Spouses/partners
- Other family members
- Neighbours
- Friends
- Acquaintances
- Leaders
- Strangers
- Paid staff and professionals

and

- Abuse can happen anywhere and by anyone

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

## **7. Best Practice Measures to minimise the possibility of Abuse occurring**

### **7.1. Safe Recruitment Procedures**

- The Adult Safeguarding Lead (ASL) for Cheam Baptist Church will ensure all Leaders, where appropriate, undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check, to be repeated every three years or on auto renewal.
- Leaders will make themselves familiar with the policy and procedures.
- Ministry Leaders will ensure all Leaders read the document and then sign to say they have done so.
- Trustees, and the ASL for Cheam Baptist Church will regularly review and up-date this document as appropriate.
- Trustees, and the ASL for Cheam Baptist Church and Ministry Leaders will ensure systems are in place, whereby concerns regarding possible abuse of adults at risk can be reported, and issue clear guidance to all Leaders regarding the reporting mechanism. (*See section 12 for fuller details and Appendix 2*)

### **7.2. Prevention of Physical Abuse**

All such abuse must be avoided and physical restraint must only be used when the life or health and safety of the person needing to be restrained, or another person in the group or a Leader, is at risk.

No threat of abuse or force must be used, including verbal threats or, for example, raising one's fist. Adopting a threatening posture must be avoided, including invasion of a person's space or cornering them. Play fighting between all Leaders and adults at risk must be avoided.

### **7.3. Prevention of Sexual Abuse**

All Leaders work within a relationship of trust. Any form of a sexual relationship between them and an adult at risk is deemed as abusive and must not take place. This is because of the imbalance of power and influence in the relationship.

We will seek to give true dignity and respect to all those in our care, protecting them from any form of sexual embarrassment. Thus, great care will be taken to safeguard the privacy of those in our care. Other than in exceptional circumstances, when we have a duty of care towards someone or a person deemed to be seriously at risk, no-one should be disturbed whilst undressing or dressing or whilst in the toilet.

Avoidance of sexual embarrassment includes the avoidance of the use of innuendos when speaking with an adult at risk. It also includes the wearing of modest clothing. Sexualised behaviour, or behaviour which could be misconstrued between Leaders or between Leaders and an adult at risk, will be avoided, as this could lead to insecurity for the adult at risk and lead to their believing it is right they behave in the same way, thus placing them and/or others at risk.

### **7.4. Prevention of Emotional Abuse**

It is extremely easy for Leaders to abuse someone in their care emotionally, so it is very important that we act in a thoughtful and sensitive manner at all times. It is unacceptable for anyone to make fun of an adult at risk.

Emotional abuse can also occur when Leaders request an adult at risk to keep a matter secret by using a threat or any form of coercion.

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

## 7.5. **Prevention of Financial Abuse**

In order to avoid even the appearance of financial abuse, the following guidelines must be carefully implemented:

- No Leader will agree to look after money for an adult at risk. If in unusual circumstances this becomes necessary, a receipt (receipt book) will be given to the person concerned and a copy kept.
- An adult at risk may very easily be persuaded to give money to Leaders, or easily persuaded to spend their money on items chosen by a Leader. We have a duty of care to advise those who are particularly vulnerable and to help them in their choice of spending. However, any suggestion to spend money on items chosen because of a Leader's own interests must be carefully avoided.
- Leaders will not lend money to an adult at risk. This can lead to difficulties in trying to recoup money owed, giving rise to pressure on Leaders, or to accusations of unfairness.
- On no account will a Leader borrow money from an adult at risk.

## 7.6. **Photography, Video and Social Media**

An adult at risk may lack the capacity to make a decision on appearing in photographs, social media, etc. Care must be taken to ensure they are giving informed consent.

## 8. **Practical Measures to prevent Accusation**

- 8.1. It is important that all Leaders recognise that when working with adults at risk, they themselves may be at risk of accusation of inappropriate behaviour or abuse. If the ministry Leader is aware of particular individuals who are likely to make accusations or to misinterpret a Leader's behaviour, the Ministry Leader is expected to warn the Leader of the risk. If any Leader is aware of such a risk, they will inform the Ministry Leader.
- 8.2. As far as is reasonably practical, no Leader will be on their own with someone who is known to make allegations. If this situation cannot be avoided, it is down to the Ministry Leader to risk assess the specific situation and recommend what steps need to be put in place to minimise risk to both the adult at risk and Leaders. If experiencing difficulty, it is the responsibility of any Leader to follow advice given and to request further advice from the Ministry Leader where needed.
- 8.3. It must be remembered that an adult at risk may misinterpret a Leader's actions or words because of earlier, harmful and confusing experiences. However, it is the responsibility of the Ministry Leader to take seriously an accusation made by any adult at risk, and to take appropriate steps.
- 8.4. Although the welfare of the Leaders will always be most carefully considered, the accusation will also be most carefully considered. It may be deemed necessary immediately to request the accused Leader to withdraw their services from the ministry whilst the matter is being investigated. Thus, it is vital Leaders act on any advice given with regard to avoiding accusations of abuse.
- 8.5. In general Leaders should avoid the following:
  - Being alone with an adult at risk who is of the opposite sex including the provision of transport.
  - Being in a one-to-one counselling situation with a person who is of the opposite sex, or with a person who is disclosing sexual abuse or other very personal matters. If it is absolutely necessary, the door of the room will be left open.

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

## **9. Recognising Signs and Signals of Possible Abuse and Abusers**

### **9.1. Recognising Signs and Signals**

Where abuse has occurred one or more of the following signs or indicators may have been or may be present, for example:

- Seeking shelter or protection
- Unexplained reactions towards particular individuals or settings
- Frequent or regular visits to the GP or the accident and emergency department, or hospital admissions
- Frequent or irrational refusal to accept investigations or treatments for routine difficulties
- Unexplained bruising, burns, fractures or broken bones
- Unusual physical changes
- Unexpected change in material circumstances
- Inconsistency of explanation regarding the area of possible concern
- Carer(s) or third party always wishing to be present during conversations
- Panic attacks, withdrawal of verbal communication, regressive behaviour
- Absconding/wandering
- Dislike of being touched and flinching on being touched
- Obsessive or challenging behaviour
- Self-harm
- Withdrawal
- Change in behaviour or attitude or approach

None of these indicators alone definitely suggests abuse. However, concerns will be heightened if one or a combination of factors exists.

### **9.2. The Adult at Risk as an Abuser**

It must be recognised that an adult at risk themselves can cause abuse as well as be a victim of abuse. In this case, if an alleged crime or incident has been committed, it will be assumed that the person has the capacity to know what they are doing and the decisions they are making, unless it has been established that they do not have capacity. If a Leader becomes aware that an adult at risk may be, or is, abusing others, they must inform the ASL.

### **9.3. Ministry Leaders, Employees and Volunteers as an Abuser**

If a Leader is aware of another Leader abusing an adult at risk, they must inform the ASL immediately. If the accusation is against the ASL they must inform the trustee responsible for safeguarding.

If the allegation is against an employee, the same reporting procedures apply and the relevant HR policies and procedures will be followed.

### **9.4. Domestic Abuse**

If Leaders are aware that an adult at risk is living in an environment where they are witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse, it is important that the ASL is informed without delay.



# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

## 10. Managing Concerns

### 10.1. Overview

Listen to what the adult at risk is saying, but do not question them.

Ensure the immediate safety of the adult at risk, alerting emergency services if necessary.

Inform the ASL for the Church, (or if they are unavailable, the Trustee responsible for Safeguarding or the Children Safeguard Lead), who will then follow the Local Authority safeguarding adults procedures.

The Leader will carefully record what the adult at risk is communicating. This communication will be taken seriously as it could be regarded as a source of evidence. No internal investigation will occur at this time. It is, therefore, important to listen and not ask leading questions, which may suggest or invite an anticipated or acceptable answer. Record the concerns precisely in writing, as expressed by the adult at risk, including the time, date and location that the disclosure was made. All written notes will be made as soon as practicable, as they may become the basis for a formal interview at a later date.

### 10.2. Leader Guidance

(see Appendix 2)

The Leader will:

- Remain calm
- Listen very carefully to what is being said
- Demonstrate a sympathetic approach by acknowledging concern that this has happened to them  
Reassure the adult at risk, by telling them –
  - they have done the right thing by sharing the information with you
  - you are treating the information seriously
  - the abuse is not their fault (if information shared by the victim)

Be aware of the possibility of needing to capture forensic evidence.

Explain that it is necessary immediately to share the information with the Adult Safeguarding Lead or Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator in order to safeguard the welfare of everyone concerned.

Reassure the adult at risk, that any further investigation will be conducted sensitively and with their full involvement, wherever possible.

Reassure the adult at risk, that the Leader will take steps to support and, where appropriate, protect them in the future.

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

The Leader will **NOT**:

- confront or contact the alleged abuser. This may put them, and the adult at risk, at further risk. This could be the role of the police during any investigation, if a criminal offence has been committed.
- begin an investigation on their own or question the adult at risk as they could prove to be leading questions. There are staff from the police and social care teams, learning disability and mental health teams in the area where the alleged abuse took place, who have been trained to carry out safeguarding adult's assessments and investigations.
- damage/destroy possible evidence. Be aware that you may be the first to hear about allegations of abuse. It is important that the adult at risk gives their full account to people who have a role in investigating. If a physical or sexual assault may have been committed, the police need to be informed immediately in order to gather possible forensic evidence.
- discuss the alleged abuse with anyone other than the Church Adult Safeguarding Lead.

## 10.3. **Police Involvement**

In cases of serious assault and sexual assault/rape, i.e. an offence against a vulnerable person, it is the responsibility of the police to gather evidence, even if the victim does not wish to make a statement or to press charges. It is, therefore, very important that the police will be informed *and no action is taken that might compromise forensic evidence.*

## 10.4. **Helping Those who have experienced Abuse in the past**

DO:

- Listen carefully to what they say
- Accept what is said, even if very shocking Encourage them to believe things can change Ask if you can pray for them
- Act to help the abused person
- Think about counselling/further help

DON'T:

- Ask lots of questions
- Panic!
- Promise to keep the abuse secret
- Touch the person without permission
- Expect them to forgive the abuser now
- Believe you have all the answers!

## 11. **Confidentiality**

Wherever possible, the consent of the adult at risk to share information should be obtained where a disclosure of abuse has been made. On some occasions it may be necessary to pass information on without their consent. This could include incidents where:

- a) A criminal offence has been or is likely to be committed
- b) The adult at risk, or someone else may be in imminent danger
- c) There is a significant risk to health/well-being – physical and/or mental health
- d) There are concerns around adult abuse/neglect

However, the person disclosing the alleged abuse will be told of this and advised that they will be consulted so their views can be established.

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

## 12. Who to go to with a Safeguarding Concern

Whether the abuse is intentional or not, whether it is just a suspicion, it is still important to raise the concern. Cheam Baptist Church (CBC) has an ASL. CBC is also a member of Thirtyone:eight. Contact details can be found in Appendix 3 for the Trustee responsible for safeguarding, the ASL, and Thirtyone:eight.

But as stated earlier:

**The Care Act makes it clear that it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to make enquiries or to delegate that task to another agency if it believes an adult is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect.**

**Contact the Social Services office that covers the area where the alleged abuse/ neglect took place. (For contact numbers see Appendix 3)**

## 13. Guidance on use of social media for communication

Communicating via telephone, or online, whether via messaging, zoom call, messaging platforms, video is to be seen as part of any ministry to adults at risk especially in the context where face to face meetings are difficult. Digital inclusion of this type is encouraged among adults at risk.

We recognise the positive impact video messaging can have in maintaining social contact. However during every contact with an adult at risk it is important to remember to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The following guidance is recommended when seeking to support adults at risk in their spiritual growth and mental health.

- Both parties agree to the contact at a mutually agreeable time.
- As much as possible, communication will happen in a public space in the house/flat, residential or supported living accommodation. If this cannot easily be achieved, the planned meeting will be discussed with the Team Leader.
- It is important for carers and family members to help the adult at risk to be aware of available and appropriate messaging platforms.
- The meeting/conversation will not exceed 60 minutes.
- The meeting can cease at any time if the adult at risk or Leader chooses.
- The Team Leader, of the work of which the adult at risk is a part, is to be made aware of any regular meeting or conversation.
- A summary note is to be kept of what has been discussed during the contact including the location of the meeting.
- Workers must be appropriately dressed for video calls, just as they would for a normal face to face meeting.
- Any concerns will be brought straight to the Team Leader, who in turn will pass it on to the ASL.

## 14. Policy Adoption

The trustees of Cheam Baptist Church formally adopted this policy at the trustees meeting held on 14.11.2022.

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

Appendix 1



## Safeguarding Incident Form

<b>1. Your details</b>	
Date form completed:	
Time form completed:	
Name of Person completing this form:	
How do you know the adult at risk / your involvement with them?	
Your Telephone:	
Your Mobile:	
Your email:	

<b>2. Adult at risk's details</b>	
Name:	
Address:	
Date of Birth:	
Gender:	
Does the adult have any language or communication difficulties	
Does the adult have any known Mental Capacity issues?	
Their telephone:	
Their mobile:	
Their email:	

# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

Appendix 1



<b>3. Details of concern</b>			
Date of alleged abuse or neglect (if known):			
<b>Type of suspected abuse or neglect (tick all that apply)</b>			
Physical	<input type="checkbox"/>		Modern slavery
Domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>		Discriminatory
Sexual	<input type="checkbox"/>		Organisational
Psychological	<input type="checkbox"/>		Neglect and acts of omission
Financial and material	<input type="checkbox"/>		Self-neglect
<p><b>Please give details about your concerns</b> (such as what has happened to make you concerned that the person may be being abused/neglected, who was involved, were there any witnesses, whether you have any immediate concerns about the person's safety, whether any action has already been taken to keep the person safe such as whether the police have been called, medical assistance requested etc. Is there anyone else who could be at risk due to your current concerns such as a child or another adult at risk/vulnerable person):</p>          			

<b>4. Please tell us if you know whether other people are involved with the adult at risk.</b>
<p>This may include people such as their GP, family, neighbours, professionals, other agencies. If possible, please include Name, Job Title (if any), Address and Telephone number.</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>etc..</p>     

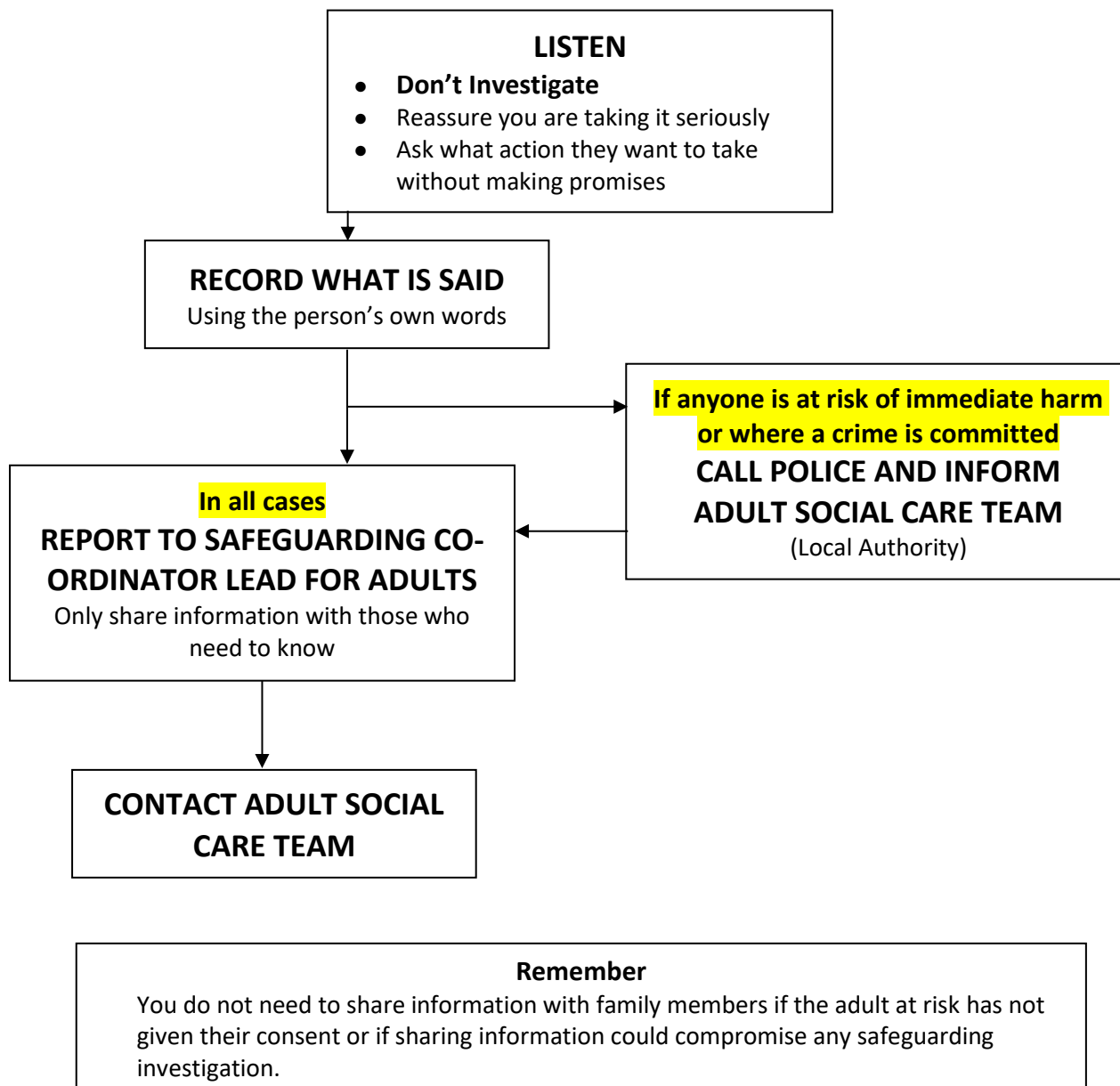
# Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

Appendix 1



5. Does the adult at risk know you are contacting us?			
Yes			No
<p><b>If yes</b>, what are their views. Please include whether they agree with the referral being made.</p>		<p><b>If no</b>, were there any reasons why you did not feel it appropriate to advise them that you were making contact with us</p>	

## Responding to a Report about actual/suspected abuse



## Key Contacts

### **TRUSTEE responsible for Safeguarding**

Genefer Espejo

Cheam Baptist Church, 4 Park Road, Cheam, Sutton, SM3 8QB

### **ADULT SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

Peter Diboll

Cheam Baptist Church, 4 Park Road, Cheam, Sutton, SM3 8QB

### **CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

Liz Brailsford

Cheam Baptist Church, 4 Park Road, Cheam, Sutton, SM3 8QB

### **LEAD DBS RECRUITER**

Malcolm Paterson

Cheam Baptist Church, 4 Park Road, Cheam, Sutton, SM3 8QB

### **Thirtyone:eight**

P.O.Box 133, Swanley, Kent BR8 7UQ

Telephone: 0303 0031111

e-mail: [info@thirtyoneeight.org](mailto:info@thirtyoneeight.org)

### **FIEC (The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches)**

Telephone: 01858 43 45 40

### **Local Authority and Emergency Numbers**

In an Emergency: **999**

If the alleged abuse takes place in the Borough of Sutton contact the number below

### **Sutton Safeguarding Adults Board**

Telephone: 020 8770 6770

<https://www.suttonsab.org.uk/report-abuse.php>

For Sutton's Social Services Safeguarding Policy and procedures see:

<https://www.sutton.gov.uk/adult-safeguarding>



## Type of Abuse and Neglect

The Care Act 2014 provides the following categories of abuse and neglect. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but a guide to the sort of issues, which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

### 1. **Physical Abuse**

The non-accidental infliction of physical force that results (or could result) in bodily injury, pain or impairment. Examples of behaviour: hitting, slapping, pushing, burning, physical restraint, harassment, enforced sedation, and inappropriate use of medication and catheterisation for management ease.

### 2. **Sexual Abuse**

Direct or indirect involvement in sexual activity without consent. Examples of behaviour: *non-contact* – looking, photography, indecent exposure, harassment, serious teasing or innuendo, pornography. *Contact* – coercion to touch, e.g. of breast, genitals, anus, mouth, with or by penis, finger and/or other objects, rape.

### 3. **Domestic Abuse**

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: Psychological, Physical, Sexual, Financial and Emotional.

### 4. **Psychological/Emotional Abuse**

That which impinges on the emotional health and development of individuals. It also presents with other forms of abuse. Examples of behaviour: shouting, swearing, insulting, ignoring, threats, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, depriving an individual of the right to choice and privacy, unjustifiable withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

### 5. **Financial or Material Abuse**

The unauthorised, fraudulent obtaining and/or improper use of funds, property or any resources of a vulnerable person. Examples of behaviour: theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to adult's financial affairs or arrangements, misappropriating money, valuables or property, forcing changes to a will, denying the adult at risk the right to access personal funds.

### 6. **Modern Slavery**

Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, and forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use any means to coerce, deceive and force people into a life of abuse and/or servitude.

### 7. **Discriminatory Abuse**

Abuse of individual rights is a violation of human and civil rights by any other person or persons. This includes harassment, slurs or similar treatment because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation and religion.

## 8. Organisational Abuse

This includes neglect or poor practice within an establishment or specific care setting or in relation to the care provided at home. This may relate to one off incidents or on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practise as a result of structures, policies, processes and practices within the organisation.

## 9. Neglect

Neglect in ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs. Examples of behaviour: failure to provide appropriate food, shelter, heating, clothing, medical care, hygiene, personal care; the inappropriate use of medication, or over-medication; failure to provide appropriate access to health, care and support.

## 10. Self-neglect

Self-neglect is "the inability (whether intentional or not) to maintain a socially and culturally accepted standard of self-care with the potential for serious consequences to the health and well-being of people who self-neglect and perhaps even to their community" (Gibbons, 2006). For example an individual may be considered as self-neglecting and therefore at risk of harm if they are:

- either unable or unwilling to provide adequate care for themselves
- unable or unwilling to obtain necessary care to meet their needs
- and/or declining essential support so that their health and safety needs cannot be met

Examples may include hoarding and/or failure to self-medicate.

### Other types of abuse to be aware of:

## 11. Professional Abuse

The misuse of therapeutic power and abuse of trust by volunteers and professionals, the failure by them to act on suspected abuse/crimes. Examples of behaviour: entering into a sexual relationship with a club member, failure to refer disclosure of abuse, punitive responses to challenging behaviour.

## 12. Restraint

Restraint that is unlawful or inappropriate is a form of physical abuse. Restrictive interventions can only be justified when they are used in the best interest of the person and / or to protect the safety of others. Where these are necessary the least restrictive approach will always be used. If the person lacks capacity regarding this, any interventions must be in line with the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Code of Practice.

## 13. Human trafficking

Human trafficking involves the recruitment or movement of people for exploitation by the use of threat, force, fraud, or the abuse of vulnerability. Trafficking is a crime that can occur across international borders or within a country. It often crosses multiple geographic and legal boundaries. Men, women and children may be trafficked for various purposes. They include labour sectors (for example, agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, services), domestic servitude, forced begging and petty theft and sexual exploitation.

## **14. Hate crime**

The law recognises five types of hate crime on the basis of:

- Race
- Religion
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

Any crime can be prosecuted as a hate crime if the offender has either:

- demonstrated hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity or
- been motivated by hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

## **15. Mate crime**

Mate crime is a form of disability hate crime. Mate crime is where someone pretends to be friends with a person who is vulnerable (such as someone who has learning disabilities) but then goes on to take advantage, exploit or abuse them.

## **16. Honour Based Abuse**

Honour based abuse (HBA) is an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.

## **17. Forced marriage**

Any person may be forced into marriage – this includes people of all ages, genders, ethnicities and religions. A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used to force them into the marriage.

For more information on the Care Act 2014 see:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

## Key Points on the Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Mental Capacity Act provides a statutory framework to empower and protect people who may lack the capacity to make some decisions for themselves. For example, people with dementia, significant learning disabilities, stroke or head injuries may lack capacity to make certain decisions. ***This does not mean that they cannot make any decisions for themselves, but they may lack capacity to make a specific decision at the time, in relation to a particular matter.*** The Mental Capacity Act covers major decisions about someone's property and affairs, healthcare treatment, where someone lives, as well as everyday decisions, for example personal care. If the person has been assessed as lacking the capacity to make that particular decision, the Act makes it clear who can take decisions, in which situations and how to go about it.

There are FIVE key principles that must be kept in making and guiding all decisions being taken by other people on behalf of others.

### 1 Presumption of capacity

Every adult has the right to make his or her own decisions and it must be assumed he/ she has capacity to do so unless it is proved otherwise.

### 2 Individuals must be given all support to enable them to make their own decisions

A person must be given all practical help with making decisions before anyone treats them as not being able to make their own decision. For example, the individual may need information presented in an accessible way.

### 3. Unwise decisions

A person might be seen as making an unwise/risky decision but an unwise/risky decision does not mean they lack capacity to make that specific decision.

### 4. Best Interest

A specific decision made under the Act or on behalf of someone who lacks capacity must be done in their Best Interest. The Act provides guidance on who can take these decisions and how to go about it. If the decision made is in someone's best interest it must follow the best interest checklist set out in the Act.

### 5. Be the Least Restrictive Option

Anything done for or on behalf of a person will be least restrictive of their basic rights and freedoms.

So the law assumes that adults are able to make their own decisions unless proved otherwise. So as long as an adult can understand the information relevant to the decision, retain the information relevant to the decision, have the ability to use the information in order to make the decision and have the ability to communicate that decision (verbally or non-verbally) then the decision is theirs to make.

AND it is only if they cannot do the above that a decision is made in their Best Interest.

This is a summary of the key principles found in the Mental Capacity Act. If you wish to look at the Act in greater depth, further information can be obtained on the Department of Health website, then search for the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice.

For more information on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 see:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/introduction/enacted>

## Safeguarding Alerts

### **The issue of consent and sharing information.**

Where an adult at risk is involved in a safeguarding situation and he/she has the capacity to make decisions regarding their present situation and future actions in response to the concerns, they will have the opportunity to discuss possible options but will not be given a guarantee of confidentiality. The information they give may need to be shared with other agencies in order to protect them or others from possible abuse. The information will be shared only with those people who need to know and in a sensitive and appropriate way.

Where the person lacks capacity to make specific decisions in relation to the safeguarding matter, a safeguarding alert may well need to be raised on their behalf, in their best interests.

## Temporary Vulnerability due to receiving First Aid

