

Minister:  
Martin Hazell  
mthazell@stonesworld.com

**MOAT CHURCH**

moat.org.uk

# Moat United Reformed Church

# Safeguarding

Children and adults at risk

## **Why is Safeguarding Important for the church?**

### **Some words from Scripture**

- The Old Testament bears witness to God's particular concern for the welfare of the most vulnerable in society. E.g. 'the widows and the orphans'
- Matthew 18.5-6 'if anyone causes one of these little ones to sin...'
- 1 Corinthians 13 @Love always .....protects'
- John 13.34-35 'Jesus commands us to love one another'

### **Some positive reasons**

- Realism about our society – there are sadly people who seek to harm children and adults who may be feeling vulnerable.
- Realism about the church – it is open to all. We openly welcome all to worship with us without any back ground knowledge of them
- It is our duty to ensure we that all can worship and enjoy activities in a safe environment
- It is our duty to protect all from harm
- It is right that we assure all that we take our duty of care seriously
- It helps to maintain the reputation of our church and by implication the reputation of Christianity

- It enables the Elders of Moat United Reformed Church to fulfil their duties as charitable trustees and fulfil the conditions of the church's insurance policy

## **Safeguarding is taken seriously by **Moat United Reformed Church****

We acknowledge children's and adults' right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. We consider that the welfare of children is paramount. We will follow legislation, statutory guidance and recognised good practice in order to protect vulnerable people in our church.

We will seek to establish a caring environment in which there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse.

We will implement, maintain and regularly review the procedures outlined in this policy, which are designed to prevent and to be alert to such abuse.

We will appoint a Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator, who will have specific responsibilities for safeguarding, **although we recognise that safeguarding is a whole church responsibility**. The Safeguarding Coordinator is the person to whom all concerns or allegations should be addressed. In the absence of the Safeguarding Coordinator, the Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator should be contacted. Their contact details can be found in Key Contacts, P9. If unavailable the synod Safeguarding officer can be contacted with your concern. Details found on P9.

We will organise activities in such a way as to promote a safe environment and minimise the risk of harm to children and adults.

We will follow a safer recruitment process for the selection and appointment of people to work with children or adults at risk, whether voluntary or paid, lay or ordained.

We are committed to providing support, supervision, resources and training to those who work with children and adults. (Including safer Online communication Appendix 5)

We will use rigorous and careful supervision to protect people from the risks associated with known offenders within the congregation, including implementing contracts with known offenders and those who have been assessed as posing a risk.

We believe that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with a Christian way of living and recognised that it can affect both adults and children.

All concerns and allegations of abuse will be responded to appropriately, including referring to the statutory authorities if necessary.

We will co-operate with the statutory authorities in any investigation, will follow multi-agency decisions and will maintain confidentiality of any investigations to those directly involved.

We will refer concerns about staff – volunteers and paid, lay and ordained – that meet the relevant criteria to the Local Authority Designated Officer. The United Reformed Church synod Safeguarding office will be informed of any serious concerns.

Our Safeguarding Policy Statement is attached as Appendix A1.

## **Aim and purpose of this policy**

The aim of this policy is to provide procedures for promoting safeguarding, preventing abuse and protecting children, adults at risk and staff. This includes clear procedures for taking appropriate action when safeguarding concerns are raised involving children and adults within our church, or those who attend our activities and events.

## **Who this policy applies to**

This policy is approved and endorsed by the Elders and applies to:

- all those who attend our church
- our trustees and staff (both paid and voluntary)
- organisations who hire our building with agreement to operate under the church safeguarding policy

The policy and procedures should be interpreted in the light of the most recent URC good practice guidance. Children and parents/carers will be informed of this policy and our procedures.

The term 'children' refers to those under the age of 18 years.

## **Duty of care and confidentiality**

We have a duty of care to all beneficiaries of the church, whether adults or children. We will maintain confidentiality at all times, except in circumstances where to do so would place the individual or another individual at risk of harm.

## **Preventing abuse**

The church will appoint Safeguarding and Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator(s) for safeguarding children and adults. A job description is attached as Appendix A2.

Activities will be organised in accordance with URC good practice guidelines so as to promote a safe environment and healthy relationships, whilst minimising opportunities for harm, misunderstanding or false accusation. For each event, risk assessments will be carried out, appropriate consent forms will be used (for children's activities), appropriate records will be kept and adequate insurance will be in place.

We are committed to safer recruitment and selection of all paid staff and volunteers and will ensure that these procedures are followed, which include:

- asking applicants to complete an application form
- providing workers with job descriptions and person specifications
- completion of self-declaration forms
- obtaining Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) / Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme (PVG) checks wherever legally entitled to do so
- taking up two references (not from family members)
- interviewing candidates

Safeguarding training will be provided and volunteers and paid staff will be given support and supervision in their role.

All trustees, paid staff and volunteers will work within a code of conduct (code for workers attached as Appendix A3 & A4) and understand that there may be action taken if this code is not followed, possibly involving suspension or termination of working with us.

If we become aware of someone within our congregation known to have harmed children or adults in the past, we will inform the Synod Safeguarding Officer and co-operate with them and the relevant statutory authorities to put in place a plan to minimise the risk of harm to children and adults.

Organisations wishing to hire our building for activities with children or adults must confirm in writing that they will follow the principles of this safeguarding policy as a condition of the letting agreement. If they have their own safeguarding policy, they will be asked to provide a copy. If they do not have their own safeguarding policy, the church will encourage them to adopt one before agreeing to the hire, or may agree that they can follow the church safeguarding policy and procedures.

## **What are we protecting people from?**

The definitions of abuse differ between children and adults. A copy of the definitions relating to children is attached to this policy at Appendix A7. The definitions of abuse in relation to adults is attached as Appendix A8.

## **How to recognise abuse**

It is important to be aware of possible signs and symptoms of abuse. Please see Appendix A9 for those relating to children and Appendix A10 for those relating to adults at risk. Some signs could be indicators of a number of different categories of abuse.

It is essential to note that these **are only indicators of possible abuse**. There may be other, innocent, reasons for these signs and/or behaviour. They will, however, be a guide to assist in assessing whether abuse of one form or another is a possible explanation for a child or adult's behaviour.

## **What to do if there is a disclosure or allegation of abuse**

If a child, young person or adult makes a disclosure that they are being abused and / or an allegation of abuse against someone, it is important that the person being told:

stays calm and listen carefully

reassures them that they have done the right thing in telling

does not investigate or ask leading questions

explains that they will need to tell someone else if anyone is at risk of harm, in order to help them

does not promise to keep secret what they have been told

informs the church Safeguarding Coordinator as soon as possible (if they are implicated in the allegation, inform the Deputy or the Synod Safeguarding Officer)

makes a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident and signs and dates this record (using the template in Appendix A11). This should be given to the church Safeguarding Coordinator and stored securely in a locked filing cabinet

## **Procedure in the event of a concern of abuse**

If there is an immediate threat of harm, the Police should be contacted without delay.

Where it is judged that there is no immediate threat of harm the following will occur:

The concern should be discussed with the Church Safeguarding Coordinator and a decision made as to whether the concern warrants a referral to statutory authorities (see Key Contacts, P9 for the relevant statutory contacts)

A confidential record will be made of the conversation and the circumstances surrounding it using the template at Appendix A11. This record will be kept securely and a copy passed to statutory authorities if a referral is made

The person about whom the allegation is made must not be informed by anyone in the church if it is judged that to do so could place a child or adult at increased risk. If the statutory authorities are involved, they should be consulted beforehand

The Synod Safeguarding Officer should be kept informed of any serious concerns

If someone in the church is alleged or known to have harmed children or adults we will inform the Synod Safeguarding Officer so that they can offer advice and support, and we will contact the relevant statutory authority.

## **If the allegation is regarding a church staff member or church volunteer**

For any concerns relating to **children**, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the equivalent in Scotland and Wales will be contacted. The timing and method of any action to be

taken will be discussed and agreed with the LADO. This will cover communication with the worker, suspension, investigation and possible strategy meetings. A decision will be taken by the LADO about when to inform the worker and the church will follow this advice. For LADO contact details, see Key Contacts, P10. For concerns relating to **adults**, Adult Social Care will be contacted. See Key Contacts, P10 for details.

In accordance with the law, a referral will be made to the DBS / PVG if the church withdraws permission for an individual to engage in work with children / adults at risk OR would have done so had that individual not resigned, retired, been made redundant or been transferred to a position because the employer believes that the individual has engaged in relevant conduct, satisfied the harm test or committed an offence that would lead to automatic inclusion on a barred list. In such cases, a report will also be made to the Charity Commission, as they deem such a referral to be a 'serious incident' and requires notification.

### **Concerns, Complaints and Compliments regarding this Safeguarding Policy**

Should anyone have any concerns, complaints or compliments about this safeguarding policy please contact:

Name: Sarah Trotter – Church Secretary

Telephone No: 07776358947

Email: sarahtrötter5@gmail.com

If would be helpful to have complaints in writing, as this avoids any possible misunderstanding about what the issue is. However, whether verbal or in writing, complaints will be acted upon.

Any written complaint will be responded to within 10 days.

### **Review**



The Elders will review this policy annually, amending and updating it as required, and informing Church Meeting that this has been done.

Date of the most recent review:

Date of the next review:

Signed:

(on behalf of the church Elders)

### **Key Contacts: Sources of advice and support**

The church **Safeguarding Coordinator** is the person to whom all concerns or allegations should be addressed:

Name

Telephone No

Email

In the absence of the Safeguarding Coordinator, the **Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator's** can be contacted:

Name

Telephone No

Email

Name

Telephone No

Email

Synod Safeguarding Officer

Name Revd Roger Jones

Telephone No 07525410083

Email jones.ra@btinternet.com

**Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)** (This should only be used for urgent advice if you are unable to contact your Synod Safeguarding Officer)  
24 hour helpline: 0845 120 4550

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**

Name – Lindsey Tonbridge- Adams

Email – lindsey.Tonbridge-Adams@westsussex.gov.uk

Telephone – 0330 222 3339

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

Name – Claire Coles

Email – Claire.Coles@westsussx.gov.uk

Telephone No – 0330 222 3339

Statutory contact in the case of an **children** at risk

Telephone – 01403 229900

Email – mash@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

Statutory contact in the case of an **adult** at risk

Telephone No – 01243 642121

## APPENDIX 1

### **Moat United Reformed Church Safeguarding Policy Statement**

The following statement has been agreed by the leadership of **Moat United Reformed Church**

**This church is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and to ensuring their well-being.**

- We believe that all children and adults at risk should know that they are valued within the church and safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of our church
- We respect the personal dignity and rights of children and adults at risk (for example, as set out in the Human Rights Act 1989 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) and will ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk
- We recognise that domestic abuse affects both adults and children and believe that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with a Christian way of living
- We will report any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed, the police will be contacted as a matter of urgency
- We recognise that Children's Services has responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child, and that Adult Services do so for adults at risk

- We acknowledge that Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) or the equivalent in Scotland and Wales have responsibility for dealing with all allegations and concerns about people working with children, whether paid or voluntary workers, lay or ordained
- We recognise that safeguarding is a whole church responsibility

We are committed to:

- The establishment of a loving environment, which is safe and caring, and where there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse  
Following the relevant legislation, statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk
- Ensuring that we keep up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding
- Building constructive links with the relevant Voluntary and Statutory Authorities
- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that as a church, everyone works within the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policies
- Supporting the Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults at risk
- Following safer recruitment principles in the appointment and selection of all those who work with children and adults at risk, be they volunteer or paid staff, lay or ordained
- Supporting, supervising, resourcing and training all those who undertake work with children and adults at risk
- Ensuring that the children and adults we have contact with know that they are valued and feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm
- Reporting any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect
- Supporting all those in our church who are affected by abuse
- Supporting and supervising those who pose a risk to children or adults at risk, implementing contracts of behaviour, whilst bearing in mind the overarching principle that the welfare of the child is paramount
- If an assessment is made that someone poses an unmanageable risk to those in need of protection and could not safely attend our church, we will ensure that they continue to be offered pastoral care and will signpost them to appropriate agencies for support

Name:

(on behalf of the church leadership)

Signed:

Date:

## APPENDIX 2

### The role of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator

#### **Context**

We believe that children and adults at risk deserve the best possible care that the church can provide and that the church should be a safe place for everyone involved.

We recognise and give thanks for the time and devotion given by anyone carrying out this role.

#### **Purpose of the role:**

- To coordinate safeguarding policy and procedure in the church.
- To be the first point of contact for safeguarding issues.
- To be an advocate for good safeguarding practice in the church.

#### **Responsibilities**

- **To coordinate safeguarding policy and procedure in the church**
- To familiarise themselves with church policies and procedures and URC good practice guidelines in safeguarding and to keep abreast of any changes and developments.
- To ensure that church policies and procedures are reviewed annually, kept up to date, and are fit for purpose.
- To make others in the church aware of the church safeguarding policies and procedures, as well as URC guidelines.
- To ensure safer recruitment practices are operated in the recruitment of all workers  
(both volunteers and paid) including, but not exclusively, ensuring that the relevant workers have up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) / Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme (PVG) checks.

#### **To be the first point of contact for safeguarding issues**

- To be a named person that children / adults at risk, church members and outside agencies can talk to regarding any issue to do with safeguarding.
- To be aware of the names and telephone numbers of appropriate contacts within Social Care and the Police in the event of a referral needing to be made.
- To be aware of when to seek advice, and when it is necessary to inform Social Care, the Police or the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the equivalent in Scotland and Wales of a concern or incident.
- To take appropriate action in relation to any safeguarding concerns which arise within the church.

- To cooperate with Social Care or the Police in safeguarding investigations relating to people within the church.
- To ensure that appropriate records are kept by the church, and that information in relation to safeguarding issues is handled confidentially and stored securely.
- To inform the Synod Safeguarding Officer at the time of any referrals made to the statutory authorities, or of any information received from the statutory authorities.
- To report summary safeguarding information annually to the Synod Safeguarding Officer to enable them to monitor safeguarding in the Synod.

### **To be an advocate for good safeguarding practice in the church**

- To promote sensitivity within the church towards all those affected by the impact of abuse.
- To promote positive safeguarding procedures and practice and ensure procedures are adhered to.
- To arrange and/or promote opportunities for training in safeguarding to any relevant members of the leadership team and congregation, including both paid staff and volunteers.
- To update their own safeguarding training every three years.
- To seek appropriate support and advice in carrying out this role.
- To make arrangements for a suitable person to carry out this role when they are on leave, and to publicise who this is and the dates of the alternative arrangements.

## APPENDIX 3

### **Code of conduct for working with children & young people**

We should all be aware that behaviour in a worker's personal life (including online) may impact upon their work with children or young people. Therefore, all workers should agree not to behave in a manner which would lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children or act as a role model within the United Reformed Church.

All workers should agree to the following code of conduct when working with children and young people:

- Do treat all people with dignity and respect
- Don't abuse the power and responsibility of your role. Don't belittle, scapegoat, put down, or ridicule a child or young person (even in 'fun') and don't use language or behaviour with sexual connotations (e.g. flirting or innuendo)
- Do act inclusively, seek to make everyone feel welcome and valued
- Don't exclude other children or workers from conversations and activities unless there is a good reason
- Do treat people with equal care and concern
- Don't show favouritism (e.g. in selection for activities, in giving rewards, etc) or encourage excessive attention from a particular child (e.g. gifts)
- Do encourage everyone to follow any ground rules or behaviour agreement or and apply sanctions consistently
- Do refer to a more senior worker if a child does not respond to your instructions despite encouragement and warning of possible consequences
- Don't feel you have to deal with every problem on your own
- Do seek to diffuse aggressive or threatening behaviour without the use of physical contact
- Don't use physical restraint except as a last resort to prevent injury. This should use minimum force
- Do relate to children in public. If a child wants to talk one-to-one about an issue, tell another worker and find somewhere quieter, but still public, to talk. Ensure the Lone Working guidelines on P17 are followed
- Don't spend time alone with children out of sight of other people
- Do make sure that any electronic communication is done with parental consent and is transparent, accountable, recorded and adheres to safeguarding policies
- Don't keep communication with children secret, while still respecting appropriate confidences
- Do have a designated photographer to take, store and share photos of your group's activities, in line with URC good practice guidelines



- Don't take photos or videos without consent, store them in a safe place designated by the church and only use them in the ways agreed, in line with URC good practice guidelines

Do use physical contact wisely; it should be:

- in public
  - appropriate to the situation and to the age, gender and culture of the child
  - in response to the needs of the child, not the adult
  - respectful of the child's privacy, feelings and dignity
- 
- Don't use physical contact which could be misconstrued as aggressive (e.g. rough games) or sexual
  - Do respect children's privacy
  - Don't assume that children should tell you anything you ask just because you are a worker
  - Do respect the right of children to wash, change and use the toilet in private
  - Don't walk in unnecessarily or unannounced
  - Do listen to children and tell the church Safeguarding Coordinator if you have any concerns about a child's welfare
  - Don't promise to keep something secret if it is about a child being harmed or at risk of harm, but only tell those who need to know
  - Do respect and promote the rights of children to make their own decisions and choices
  - Don't work in ways that put your needs and interests before those of the children you work with
  - Do encourage respect for difference, diversity, beliefs and culture
  - Don't discriminate or leave discrimination or bullying unchallenged

I agree to abide by the above code of conduct while working with children and young people

on behalf of Moat United Reformed Church

Name of worker:

Signed:

Date:

## APPENDIX 4

### **Lone Working**

It is not realistic to state that one-to-one situations should never take place. It is however appropriate to state that where there is a need for a worker to be alone with an individual, certain precautions and explicit safeguards must be in place, including agreement with the leader and/or parents/carers.

Workers would be offered guidance/training for the use of any areas of the work place which may place themselves or others in vulnerable situations. This would include those situations where workers directly with individuals in unsupervised settings, within the building or during activities.

One-to-one situations have the potential to make individuals more vulnerable to harm by those who may seek to exploit their position of trust. Adults working in one-to-one settings may also be more vulnerable to unfounded or unjust accusations being made against them. Both possibilities should be recognized so that when one-to-one situations are unavoidable, reasonable and sensible precautions are taken. Every attempt should be made to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

There may be occasions where a leader will need to undertake a risk assessment in relation to the specific nature and implications of one-to-one work. These assessments should take into account the needs of the child/young person as well as the worker, and be reviewed on a regular basis.

This means that workers should:

- Ensure that when lone working is an integral part of their role, full and appropriate assessments have been conducted and agreed
- Always inform the leader or parents/carers about the contract(s) beforehand
- Carefully consider the needs and circumstances of the individual when in a one-to-one
- Always report any one-to-one situations where the individual becomes distressed or angry to the leader as soon as possible

## APPENDIX 5

### **Online Communication with young people** **Good Practice for workers**

If there is ever a need to communicate with a young person online:

- Never use online communication with children under the age of 18years.
- Do obtain parental consent for electronic communication with anyone under 118years of age, making it clear what form of communication might be used. (e.g. text, email, social networking sites etc)
- Do keep the communication purposeful and unambiguous, using language which is friendly without being over familiar or suggesting a special relationship.
- Do not use language which might be misinterpreted (e.eg. lol.... Means laugh out loud, but could be interpreted as Lots of love)
- Do ensure where possible the communication is transparent. E.g. ensure that another leader or a parent will also see what is shared. E.g. keep a copy
- Do not communicate at night time or keep the communication secret from those you are accountable
- Do maintain appropriate boundaries in what personal information you allow young people to access on social media sites such as Facebook. The simplest way to do this is to communicate via a public 'fan page' or through a 'group' which then includes more than one leader. Never have a young person you work with as Facebook friends and use the privacy settings to help maintain boundaries.
- Do encourage and educate young people to use their privacy settings to reduce the risk to themselves and to think carefully about what they share online. Do not assume they have remembered.

## APPENDIX 6

### **Online Safety to share with Young People**

#### **12 Commandments for everyone using the internet**

- Remember: people may not be who they say they are
- Never disclose identifying details
- Only message people you already know in the real world
- Never reply to cyber bullying: block the sender, save the evidence and tell a trusted adult
- Don't spend time on websites which make you feel bad about yourself
- Set social networking profiles to 'private' and be careful who is added as a 'friend'
- Set internet security settings as high as possible
- Never do anything on line that could jeopardise your education or your career, or lead to a criminal record
- Think of yourself as a role model: what happens if a much younger child saw your online profile?
- Never respond to spam emails, dubious competitions or chain letters
- Don't spend too long online: have 'real world' friends and interests too
- Pray regularly that God will bless and protect your time online

## APPENDIX 7

### **What is abuse and neglect of children?**

The below definitions are taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and apply to England. Please note that there are national variations for Scotland (National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014) and Wales (All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008).

Abuse and neglect are forms 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 a stranger, for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

#### **Physical abuse**

Physical abuse 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.

#### **Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse is 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 the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), 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.

## **Sexual abuse**

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.

## **Neglect**

Neglect is 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)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

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

## APPENDIX 8

### **What is abuse of adults at risk?**

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons.

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

#### **Physical abuse**

This is the infliction of pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately, or through lack of care.

#### **Psychological or emotional abuse**

These are acts or behaviour, which cause mental distress or anguish or negate the wishes of the adult at risk. It is also behaviour that has a harmful effect on the adult at risk's emotional health and development or any other form of mental cruelty.

#### **Sexual abuse**

This is the involvement in sexual activities to which the person has not consented or does not truly comprehend and so cannot give informed consent or where the other party is in a position of trust, power or authority and uses this to override or overcome lack of consent.

#### **Neglect or Act of Omission**

This is the repeated deprivation of assistance that the adult at risk needs for important activities of daily living, including the failure to intervene in behaviour which is dangerous to the adult at risk or to others. A vulnerable person may be suffering from neglect when their general wellbeing or development is impaired.

#### **Financial or material abuse**

This is the inappropriate use, misappropriation, embezzlement or theft of money, property or possessions.

#### **Discriminatory abuse**

This is the inappropriate treatment of an adult at risk because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality, disability, etc. Discriminatory abuse exists when



values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals. Discriminatory abuse links to all other forms of abuse.

### **Institutional abuse**

This is the mistreatment or abuse of an adult at risk by a regime or individuals within an institution (e.g. hospital or care home) or in the community. It can be through repeated acts of poor or inadequate care and neglect or poor professional practice.

## APPENDIX 9

### Signs of possible abuse in children

#### **Physical abuse**

##### **Physical signs include:**

Unexplained injuries  
Injuries that are inconsistent with the explanation  
Injuries that reflect an article being used e.g. an iron  
Bruising, especially the trunk, upper arm, shoulders, neck or fingertip bruising  
Burns/scalds, especially from a cigarette  
Human bite marks  
Fractures, especially spiral  
Swelling and lack of normal use of limbs  
Serious injury with lack of / inconsistent explanation  
Untreated injuries

##### **Psychological/emotional signs include:**

Unusually fearful with adults  
Unnaturally compliant to parents  
Refusal to discuss injuries/fear of medical help  
Withdrawal from physical contact  
Aggression towards others  
Wears cover up clothing

#### **Factitious illness by proxy**

This is a psychiatric illness, whereby a parent or carer deliberately inflicts harm onto a child, normally the child's mother. The child has commonly had genuine serious illness in the first year of life and a dependency on medical attention has developed in the mother. It is very difficult to diagnose/evidence.

#### **Female Genital Mutilation**

A cultural (not religious) procedure whereby parts of female genitalia are removed – also referred to as female circumcision. This is normally undertaken on pre pubescent girls who are either taken abroad for procedure or “practitioners” come to the UK. There can be no anaesthetic and no sterile equipment used. Complications include serious infection, septicaemia, numerous gynaecological problems and in some cases, death.

## **Emotional abuse**

The classic description of emotional abuse is a “Low Warmth, High Criticism” style of parenting.

### **Signs include:**

- Physical, mental and emotional lags
- Acceptance of punishments, which appear excessive
- Over reaction to mistakes
- Continual self-depreciation
- Sudden speech disorders
- Fear of new situations
- Neurotic behaviour (such as rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking)
- Self harm
- Extremes of passivity or aggression
- Drug/solvent abuse
- Running away
- Bullying/Aggression
- Overly compliant behaviour
- Overeating or loss of appetite
- Clingy
- Fearful/withdrawn
- Sleep disorders

## **Neglect**

### **Physical signs include:**

- Tired/listless
- Poor personal hygiene
- Poor state of clothing
- Emaciation, potbelly, short stature
- Poor skin tone and hair tone
- Untreated medical problems
- Failure to thrive with no medical reason

### **Psychological/emotional signs include:**

- Constant hunger
- Constant tiredness

Frequent lateness/non-attendance at school  
Destructive tendencies  
Low self esteem  
Neurotic behaviour  
No social relationships  
Running away  
Compulsive stealing/scavenging  
Multiple accidents/accidental injuries

## **Sexual abuse**

### **Physical signs include:**

Damage to genitalia, anus or mouth  
Sexually transmitted disease  
Unexpected pregnancy, especially in very young girls  
Soreness to genitalia area, anus or mouth  
Repeated stomach aches  
Loss of weight  
Gaining weight  
Unexplained recurrent urinary tract infections, discharges or abdominal pain  
Unexplained gifts/money

### **Psychological/emotional signs include:**

Sexual knowledge inappropriate for the child's age  
Sexualised behaviour in young children  
Sexually provocative behaviour/promiscuity  
Hinting at sexual activity  
Sudden changes in personality  
Lack of concentration, restlessness  
Socially withdrawn  
Overly compliant behaviour  
Poor trust in significant adults  
Regressive behaviour, onset of wetting – day or night  
Suicide attempts, self-mutilation, self-disgust  
Eating disorders

## APPENDIX 10

### **Signs of possible abuse in adults**

#### **Physical**

A history of unexplained falls, fractures, bruises, burns, minor injuries  
Signs of under or over use of medication and/or medical problems unattended

#### **Psychological**

Alteration in psychological state e.g. withdrawn, agitated, anxious, tearful  
Intimidated or subdued in the presence of the carer  
Fearful, flinching or frightened of making choices or expressing wishes  
Unexplained paranoia

#### **Sexual**

Pregnancy in a woman who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse  
Unexplained change in behaviour or sexually implicit/explicit behaviour  
Torn, stained or bloody underwear and/or unusual difficulty in walking or sitting  
Infections or sexually transmitted diseases  
Full or partial disclosure or hints of sexual abuse  
Self-harming

#### **Neglect or Omission**

Malnutrition, weight loss and /or persistent hunger  
Poor physical condition, poor hygiene, varicose ulcers, pressure sores  
Being left in wet clothing or bedding and/or clothing in a poor condition  
Failure to access appropriate health, educational services or social care

No callers or visitors

### **Financial or Material**

Disparity between assets and living conditions

Unexplained withdrawals from accounts or disappearance of financial documents

Sudden inability to pay bills

Carers or professionals fail to account for expenses incurred on a person's behalf

Recent changes of deeds or title to property

### **Discriminatory**

Inappropriate remarks, comments or lack of respect

Poor quality or avoidance of care

### **Institutional**

Lack of flexibility or choice over meals, bed times, visitors, phone calls, etc

Inadequate medical care and misuse of medication

Inappropriate use of restraint

Sensory deprivation e.g. denial of use of spectacles or hearing aids

Missing documents and/or absence of individual care plans

Public discussion of private matter

Lack of opportunity for social, educational or recreational activities



APPENDIX 11 **Safeguarding Incident Recording Form**

**Basic information**

Full name of child, young person or adult concerned

**Address** (including postcode)

**Email address**

**Telephone number**

**Date of birth**

Date and time of incident

Location of incident

Other people present (witnesses)

**Record of incident**

Please ensure you are as accurate and detailed as possible. Use quotes wherever possible – do not interpret what was said using your own words.

Include details such as tone of voice, facial expression and body language.

Record what you said as well as what the child, young person or adult said.

If you have formed an opinion please state it, making it clear that it is your opinion and give reasons for forming that opinion.



## Who has been spoken to about the incident?

Position/Organisation	Name	Email	Telephone number
Church Safeguarding Coordinator			
Synod Safeguarding Officer			
Children's Services			
Adult Services			
Police			
NSPCC			
Parent/Carer			
Other (please state role and organisation)			

## Feedback and follow up actions (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Name:

(person who completed this report)

Position held in the church:

Signed:

Dated:



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**