

Community of Christ (British Isles)

Statement on the Safeguarding of Adults

Community of Christ recognises the importance of its ministry /work with adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

Specifically:

- Community of Christ is committed to the safeguarding of adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, spiritual, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults and will ensure that all our policies, procedures and practices reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with adults or who will be in positions of trust. We will promote safe practice and support those who undertake this work.
- We believe everyone should be valued and safe. We want to ensure that everyone we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.
- We will keep up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding. We will follow statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding adults and we will ensure that all our workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- We will follow the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding adults and good practice recommendations.
- We will support everyone in the place of worship/organisation who may be affected by abuse of any kind.
- We will adopt and follow the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by Thirtyone:eight. (formerly known as CCPAS)

We recognise;

- Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures every two years.

If you have any concerns for an adult then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding coordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

_____ Safeguarding Adults Coordinator

_____ Deputy Safeguarding Adults Coordinator

Useful Contacts

Age UK

Phone:0800 169 8787

Email:contact@ageuk.org.uk

Action on Elder Abuse

Phone:020 8835 9280

Email:enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk

Prospects for People with Learning Disabilities

Phone:0118 950 878

Email:info@prospects.org.uk

Through the Roof

Phone:01372 749955

Email:info@throughtheroof.org

Victim Support

Phone:020 7268 0200

Email:www.victimsupport.org.uk

Voice UK

Phone:0808 802 8686

Email:www.voiceuk.org.uk

Thirtyone:eight (formerly CCPAS)

Phone:0845 120 4550

Email:info@ccpas.co.uk

Adult Social Services

Phone:

Out of Hours Tel:

Email:

The Safeguarding Adults Policy

Details of the Congregation/ Organisation

Name of Congregation/ Organisation:

Address:

Tel No: _____

Email address: _____

Charity Number: _____

Insurance Company _____

The following is a brief description of our congregation and the type of work / activities we undertake

Our commitment

Community of Christ recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults. We acknowledge that adults can be the victims of physical, sexual, emotional, organisational, discriminatory, financial and domestic abuse, and neglect or self-neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to “all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”. They have a right to be protected from “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse”. As an organisation we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding

The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on the ten Safe and Secure safeguarding standards published by Thirtyone:eight (formerly CCPAS) and prepared in consultation with Community of Christ.

Community of Christ undertakes to:

- endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
- meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation, and provide an environment that it is welcoming and inclusive.
- support the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator(s) in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect adults with care and support needs.
- not allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

Understanding abuse and neglect

For definitions see enclosed booklet

Defining abuse against an adult is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm, or failing to prevent harm. Adults in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or in a trusted relationship with the adult.

In order to safeguard those in our congregations and organisations we adhere to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 5 which states

“No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”

Detailed information as how to respond to a disclosure of abuse is included in this document.

Safeguarding Awareness and Training

Community of Christ is committed to maintaining up to date policies and providing training.

Adults are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

Management of Volunteers and Employees–Codes of Conduct

Community of Christ is committed to supporting all volunteers and employees and ensuring they receive support and supervision. A code of conduct is attached to this document.

Working in Partnership

The diversity of organisations and settings means there can be great variation in practice when it comes to safeguarding adults. This can be because of cultural tradition, belief and religious practice or understanding, for example, of what constitutes abuse.

Good communication is essential in promoting safeguarding, both to those we wish to protect, to everyone involved in working with vulnerable adults and to all those with whom we work in partnership. This safeguarding policy is just one means of promoting safeguarding.

Each congregation building will have clear information regarding the safeguarding of adults clearly displayed at all times.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. The following procedures should be adhered to.

- The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns **within 24 hours** to the **SAFEGUARDING ADULTS COORDINATOR (as listed with contact details on the Notice Board)** who is nominated by Community of Christ 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.
- In the absence of the Safeguarding Coordinator or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Coordinator, then the report should be made to the Pastor. If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Coordinator and the Pastor, then the report should be made in the first instance to Thirtyone:eight PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0845 120 4550. Alternatively contact Social Services or the police.
- Where required the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator should then immediately inform the insurance company and other strategic personnel within the denomination
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Coordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator(s) should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from Thirtyone:eight
- The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator(s) 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.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:eight, although Community of Christ hopes that members of the congregation/ organisation will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator(s) has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that Community of Christ demonstrate its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the safeguarding coordinator/ deputy is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

Suspensions or allegations of abuse or harm including physical, sexual, organisational, financial, discriminatory, neglect, self-neglect, forced marriage, modern slavery, domestic abuse

If there is concern about any of the above the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator(s) will:

- Contact the Adult Social Care Team who have responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively Thirtyone:eight can be contacted for advice.
- If the adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency services informing them of any suspicions..

If there is a concern regarding spiritual abuse the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator(s) will

- Identify support services for the victim
- Contact Thirtyone;eight and in discussion with them consider appropriate action depending on the scale of the concern.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with adults

The Safeguarding Adults Coordinator will:

- Liaise with Adult Social Services.
- Make a referral to the DBS following the advice of Adult Social Services

The Care Act places the duty upon Adult Services to investigate situations of harm to adults with care and support needs. This may result in a range of options including action against the person or organisation causing the harm, increasing the support for the carers or no further action if the victim chooses so and they have the capacity to communicate their decision. However this decision rests with Adult Social services and not the church.

What if the adult doesn't want action taken?

The Safeguarding Adults Coordinator should be contacted and Thirtyone:eight consulted

Supporting those affected by abuse

Community of Christ is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate and supporting all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the congregation/organisation.

Working with offenders

When someone attending the congregation/ organisation is known to have abused children, or is known to be a risk to adults, Community of Christ will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care. However, in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and adults, boundaries will be set for that person which they will be expected to keep. These are clearly defined by Community of Christ. Consequently a contract should be developed and agreed on by all parties in order for participation to take place under supervision.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

As such this document comprises the Safeguarding of Adults Policy for the Community of Christ in the British Isles. It has the approval of the World Church and will become effective from October 2019.