

Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church Safeguarding Policy 8th May 2024

Contents

Policy Statement	1
Types of Abuse	2
Physical Abuse	2
Emotional abuse	2
Neglect.....	3
Sexual abuse	3
Sexual Exploitation.....	3
County lines.....	3
Online bullying	4
Recruitment and Selection	4
Training and Induction	4
Staff Responsibilities.....	4
Reporting Procedures	4
What to do if you are worried a vulnerable adult or child/young person is being abused	4
What to do if you are concerned about a vulnerable adult	6
Useful Contacts.....	6
Other points to note.....	6

Policy Statement

This policy is in place to ensure that all church users are safeguarded and protected from harm. Safeguarding policy is in place to:

- protect vulnerable adults and children from maltreatment
- prevent impairment of vulnerable adults and young people's health and ensure no harm is done
- ensuring that vulnerable adults and young people are fully supported

Definition of the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

The DPS is appointed by the church to be a key contact point for Safeguarding.

The DPS receives all reports regarding concerns about children and adults at risk.

The DPS listens, observes and acts on those concerns appropriately, having taken advice from the relevant people.

The DPS acts as a link between the church and other agencies and bodies on safeguarding matters.

The DPS must report and monitor safeguarding concerns raised by others in the church and help with the preparation and supervision of Contracts of Agreement. Complete a record of volunteer's staff who have completed the safeguarding training and promote good safeguarding practices. Ensure DBS checks are completed at the appropriate level and keep a record of safeguarding concerns as they arise, and the actions taken. Liaise with statutory services and other safeguarding contacts on behalf of the church when concerns arise.

Designated Person for Safeguarding for Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church is Val Haigh.

Val is supported in this role by the Deacons and Children's leaders Chris Baskerville, Hannah Taylor and Nominated Person is Sandra Townend.

Types of Abuse

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a young person or vulnerable adult. An individual may abuse or neglect a young person by inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Neglect or abuse, physically, emotionally, financially or sexually, can have major long-term effects on all aspects of a young person's and vulnerable adult's health, development and wellbeing. Sustained abuse is likely to have a deep impact on the young person's/vulnerable adult's self-image and self-esteem, and on his or her future life.

Harm may occur intentionally or unintentionally. The definitions of harm outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children are used to determine whether a young person needs a child protection plan put in place.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a young person or vulnerable adult. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or care giver fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a young person.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a young person or a vulnerable adult so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the young person's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a young person/vulnerable adult, though it may occur alone.

Parents/care givers of young people/vulnerable adults with multiple needs may find it difficult to ensure that the full range of their needs, including their emotional needs, are met. It may be hard to include such young people/vulnerable adults in everyday activities alongside other family members, but not to include them may be harmful.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the young person'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 caregiver failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing or shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment;
- protect a young person or vulnerable adult from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate caregivers;
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's/vulnerable adult's basic emotional needs.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person into sexual activities, including using them to gain material/monetary items, whether or not the child or vulnerable adult is aware of what is happening. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving young people in looking at, or in the production of sexual online or printed images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging young people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse, in which a young person/vulnerable adult is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. This could be as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay. The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even their boyfriend or girlfriend but they will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don't want to do. The abuser may be male or female; they may physically or verbally threaten the young person or vulnerable adult or be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them and try to isolate them from friends and family.

County lines

Drug dealers, often from major cities such as London, will move into new areas like Bedfordshire to sell their products. The link from London to their new base in Bedfordshire is known as the 'county drug line'.

Often, these dealers will take advantage of and exploit vulnerable housing tenants, taking over their home and using it as a base for their criminal operation. This is known as 'cuckooing'.

These gangs are often violent and extremely intimidating. Not only do they exploit vulnerable people for their base, but they also target children and recruit them into their criminal network. Children not even in their teens yet have been targeted by older dealers to start dealing drugs.

These organised crime groups can often have links to other forms of exploitation such as human trafficking, modern slavery and child sexual exploitation.

Online bullying

Online bullying (often referred to as cyberbullying) is any form of bullying that is carried out through the use of electronic media devices, such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, or gaming consoles. Bullying is more widespread due to it being online and can happen at any time of the day or night and in your own home.

Cyberbullying Childline can offer advice and CEOPS is available to report any online abuse <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Recruitment and Selection

Scapegoat Baptist church have a strict selection process for people in positions of leadership and safeguarding positions and are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) including enhanced checks for some of the roles.

These are reviewed every 3 years.

Training and Induction

Staff are expected to complete safeguarding training, which is delivered by a qualified trainer at L2 and or L3. They are expected to read this safeguarding policy and once every 12 / 18 months they attend a classroom-based training in Safeguarding.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff including volunteers have a duty of care to ensure that their church members and visitors are safeguarded.

You must share information with the designated person safeguarding (DPS) and always share concerns regarding children. If you believe a child to be in immediate danger you must act immediately.

Reporting Procedures

What to do if you are worried a vulnerable adult or child/young person is being abused

It is important to remember that an allegation of abuse or neglect may lead to a criminal investigation, so any concerns must be properly recorded and shared with the (DPS) or another person in a leadership role.

During training, all people in a designated role are informed of the signs to look for in relation to abuse. As they may come into contact with adults who are vulnerable and also may have access to children, they may disclose sensitive information regarding the abuse of a child.

In the event of a situation in which you consider a child or young person is at risk, you should contact your DPS and in addition your local Safeguarding Board Kirklees (see below for details) needs to be informed.

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger, call the police on 999 and inform Val Haigh DPS.

All allegations or concerns in relation to abuse, neglect, financial abuse and / or sexual exploitation will be taken seriously and managed in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures.

There is a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures and each member of staff has access to these procedures.

Concerns may arise that a person who works with vulnerable adults/young people has been informed that someone:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

There may be up to three strands in the consideration of an allegation:

- a police investigation of a possible criminal offence;
- enquiries and assessment by children's social care about whether a child is in need of protection or in need of services; and
- consideration by an employer of disciplinary action in respect of the individual.

In addition, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot OX11 8RT have their own safeguarding team.

Some cases will also need to be referred to the DBS for consideration of including the person on the DBS barred lists, or for consideration by professional bodies or regulators.

You must share information with your Church Safeguarding lead in relation to any suspicion of abuse towards children as described in the 'Working Together To Safeguard Children' document.

Staff are to approach the DPS Val Haigh on 07779170702 if they have any immediate safeguarding concerns. If there are any concerns regarding the DPS then you must contact Deacon Liz Hardy on 07903253764.

If an allegation is made against a member of the church or a leader in the church, this will be dealt with in line with the safeguarding lead Val Haigh will follow the following procedure;

Val will contact the Baptist Union on the following number/email or other appropriate agencies if need be.

Tel: 01235 517700 Email: safeguarding@baptist.org.uk Website: www.baptist.org.uk

What to do if you are concerned about a vulnerable adult

If someone is expressing thoughts to harm themselves or others you feel the they may seriously harm themselves or others once they leave the church, you must express your concerns to them (if safe to do so) and seek their permission to contact a support person, either their GP or family/friend. If they do not agree you must take action. If it is out of hours contact the single point of access team or emergency duty team for advice.

Useful Contacts

<https://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/>

Telephone 01484 456848

<https://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Reporting-child-abuse-English1.pdf>

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101421/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2023-statutory-guidance.pdf)

Single point of Access (SPA) Calderdale and Kirklees, telephone 01924 316830

<https://www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/services/single-point-of-access-2/#service-about>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> to report any online abuse

[Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\) | Kirklees Council](#)

www.nspcc.org.uk

Other points to note

If you have any concerns regarding any possible safeguarding issues contact Val Haigh on 07779170702,

Safeguarding Team, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot OX11 8RT

Tel: 01235 517700 Email: safeguarding@baptist.org.uk Website: www.baptist.org.uk

BUGB operates as a CIO with registered charity number 1181392

-----END OF DOCUMENT-----

Document Revisions

Safeguarding Policy			
Version	Description of Change	Date	Review Date
1.0	New Document	08/05/24	8/5/25