

Template

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

*Of ***** Ecclesia*

It was adopted at the Ecclesial Business Meeting on ***** after consultation with youth leaders, arranging brothers and other interested parties.

See the Safeguarding Child protection Policy which is in addition and supplements this policy.

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1. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

This Document supplements the *** Ecclesia Safeguarding Child Protection Policy dated xxxxxxx**

See this for more information concerning:

- Roles and Responsibilities of Arranging Brothers Trustees, Members and the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Risk Assessment: Safe Activities and Safe Environment

Information is taken from *Charity Guidance Safeguarding and Protecting people for charities and trustees*.

See www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees#children-adults-at-risk.

2. Principles and practice

Trustees and Members of xxxxxxxxxx Ecclesia recognise that as an expression of our love of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ we will show love to all (Matthew 22: 37-39, Galatians 6:10) and treat others as we would wish to be treated (Matthew 7: 12).

We are aware that in seeking to put these principles into practice we will take particular care when dealing with children (see separate Child Safeguarding Policy) and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is everyone responsibility. The aim of this policy is to promote the freedom and dignity and respect of everyone

3. What is Safeguarding Adults at Risk?

Safeguarding adults at risk means protecting their right to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect. Safeguarding means making arrangements or taking precautions intended to protect people from abuse, including significant harm or exploitation.

Safeguarding duties for adults at risk apply to anyone aged 18 or over who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- 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 or take steps to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation or who cannot care for themselves

4. Who are vulnerable adults?

A vulnerable adult is anyone aged 18 or over who is in a vulnerable situation or relationship. They may have difficulty making their wishes or feelings known. They may need or already receive community care services such as a care package or support worker or they may be heavily dependent on one or more family members or friends.

They may be unable or have no means of dealing with intimidation, false accusations, humiliation, coaxing, coercion or may feel that someone is trying to take control over their activities

They may be confused. They may be having problems with personal hygiene.

A vulnerable adult may find it difficult to form healthy and steady boundaries and pushing or challenging their boundaries can become damaging to that individual.

A vulnerable adult may find it difficult to express their concerns or feelings which can lead to misunderstandings of their situation.

An adult at risk of abuse may:

- have an illness affecting their mental or physical health. This would include problems mobility or with eyesight or hearing
- have a learning disability
- suffer from drug or alcohol problems
- be frail

5. What is abuse?

Abuse may be physical, emotional or sexual or it may involve not looking after someone properly, taking money or property without informed consent, misusing it or committing fraud.

It may include poor care practices, bullying or humiliating, or not allowing contact with family or friends. It often involves criminal acts.

It may be managing or taking control of someone without their permission

Abuse can be a single act or it may continue over time and may take many different forms. It can be unintentional or deliberate but in all cases it will result in harm to the victim that affects their wellbeing or security. Individuals may suffer more than one kind of abuse.

6. Who might abuse a vulnerable adult?

An abuser may be:

- A partner, family member, friend or neighbour.
- A carer, volunteer, staff member or another service user.
- A stranger.

7. Where could abuse happen?

Abuse could happen anywhere and at any time including:

- In the victim's own home or someone else's.
- In a day centre, care home or hospital.
- At work or in a college or school.
- In a public place, including any ecclesial or other meeting room.

8. What increases the risk of abuse?

Anyone can be at risk of abuse but the majority of people are not at risk all of the time.

The risk of abuse increases when:

- Someone is isolated.
- They depend on others for food or personal care.
- They are suffering from an illness or recovering.
- They are not mentally capable of making decisions for themselves.
- They have suffered previous abuse.

9. The Process of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults is:

- To respond quickly to ensure effective response to any form of harm, neglect or abuse that has or is taking place
- To consult with the vulnerable adult as far as possible to explain a proposed course of action
- Put in place a plan to assist and protect the adult.
- Make sure regular monitoring takes place when concerns have been raised.

10. How can I help a vulnerable adult but reduce the risk of being accused of abuse?

- Always be sensitive to their needs and treat them courteously.
- It is important to seek their permission before managing or taking control of their situation.

- Unless they are your close friend or family member or they rely on you for personal or professional care, try to have someone else with you when spending time with them, especially for long periods.
- If they need help with financial matters or dealing with property try to get their agreement to involve someone else such as a member of their family or a member of staff at their bank, building society or solicitor's office.

11. What should I do if I think a vulnerable adult is being abused?

In an **emergency** or if someone is in **immediate danger** call **999**.

To report a crime (non-emergency) call **101**(West Midlands Police)

Otherwise, speak to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead**:

Name

If the DSL is not available and you need to get advice or report adult abuse quickly, check the permanent address of the vulnerable adult and contact the safeguarding organisation that covers that address:

Here are some examples from the West Midlands

BIRMINGHAM (including addresses in Edgbaston, Harborne, Quinton, Northfield etc.)

Office hours **0121 303 1234 (option 2)**

Outside normal office hours **0121 675 4806**

Email: acap@birmingham.gov.uk

DUDLEY (including addresses in Halesowen etc.)

01384 818 543 or **0300 555 0055**

Email: accessteam.dachs@dudley.gov.uk

SANDWELL (including addresses in Warley etc.)

Mon.–Thurs. 9am-5.30pm : Fri. 9am-5pm: **0121 569 2266 (option 4)**

Outside those hours: **0121 569 2355**.

Email: secure_enquiry@sandwellgcsx.gov.uk

WORCESTERSHIRE (including addresses in Bromsgrove, Redditch etc.)

01905 768 053

Email: adultteam@worcestershires.gov.uk

Local Authority contact details for vulnerable adults living in any other Local Authority area can be found via the relevant website.