

City Gate Church UK

Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

Version 3

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Introduction

As the people of City Gate Church Brighton, we believe each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from being created in God's own image. We are concerned with the wholeness of each individual. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and to protect them from harm. City Gate Church has a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children with whom they come into contact. The need for guidelines and procedures is important to ensure that this is done with understanding and clarity. The Leadership & Trustees of City Gate Church fully endorse and support the safeguarding policies for children and adults that are implemented across the charity's projects and congregations. While the church is a community that is welcoming and inclusive, the protection of children and adults at risk of harm remains paramount.

The definition of a child for this policy is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection. This includes the children of adult members, or service users of City Gate Church.

The **person with Lead responsibility** for Safeguarding within City Gate Church is:

Cathy Wilkins and as a Deputy: **Patrick Stranack**

The **Trustee with responsibility** for Safeguarding within City Gate Church is:

Gwyn Davies

All staff and volunteers are made aware of this policy, and the process for reporting concerns, by issuing the policy at induction and having regular safeguarding training.

1. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

City Gate church is committed to keeping the welfare of any child or young person who is involved at any point of our services paramount, ensuring that they are valued, listened to and respected.

All children or young people, whatever their gender, disability, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation have a right to a safe and caring environment when participating in any activities run by City Gate Church and to equal protection from any form of exploitation or abuse.

Everyone working or volunteering with us, including its trustees, employees and volunteers is responsible for ensuring all children are safe.

We will promote the welfare of all children participating in our services by:

- Implementing a robust recruitment and selection process with new staff or volunteers.
- Identifying a designated lead person for dealing with concerns or allegations of abuse and a clear referral process.
- Providing & logging training for all who work with us so that they are clear about their responsibilities especially regarding safeguarding best practice.
- Ensuring that any concerns of possible abuse are referred appropriately and co-operating with the work of statutory agencies as necessary.
- Structuring our services to help children to protect themselves and understand the importance of protecting others.
- Identifying and implementing good practice in relation to the care, protection and welfare of children.
- Encouraging parents and carers to be involved with the programmes and develop a relationship with City Gate Church which promotes their child's welfare.
- Providing a whistleblowing policy that allows for an open and well-publicised way for adults and young people to voice concerns about abusive or unethical behaviour.
- Developing a listening culture where children feel confident that if they have concerns someone will listen and take them seriously.
- Adhering to guidance provided by Pioneer Safeguarding lead, and membership of Thirtyone:Eight which provides policy and practice advice and training.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

City Gate church aims to establish clear roles and responsibilities for all its staff and volunteers, and clarify what is expected from **everyone** in the organisation regarding their safeguarding responsibilities.

a) The Church Leadership and Designated Lead will provide:

- A safeguarding policy for protecting children, and a procedure for what to do if there are concerns about a child's welfare.
- A named person for dealing with concerns or allegations of abuse and step-by-step guidance on what action to take.
- A rigorous recruitment and selection process for paid staff and volunteers who work with children.
- A written code of behaviour that outlines good practice when working with children.
- A training plan and regular opportunities for all those in contact with children to learn about safeguarding and health and safety.
- A whistle-blowing policy that allows for an open and well-publicised way for adults and young people to voice any concerns about abusive or unethical behaviour.

- Information for young people and for parents or carers about their safeguarding policy for protecting children, and where to go for help.
- A protective culture that puts children's interests first – children must feel confident that if they have concerns someone will listen and take them seriously.
- Guidance on taking children away on trips and on internet use: social networking policy, use of photographs and guidance on chatrooms, websites.
- Policies on bullying, cyberbullying and on health and safety.
- Policies and guidelines for those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
- Working practices when dealing with sex offenders in church.
- Pastoral support for those affected by abuse.

b) Children's Workers/Youth Leaders will ensure:

- All volunteers working with children and young adults are safely recruited, using DBS checks where appropriate.
- All new volunteers have completed an application form and applied for 2 references. Volunteers who have been serving the church for more than 5 years will have completed a long serving volunteer form signed by City Gate Church Elder.
- Adults awaiting DBS checks or references are sensitively supervised, never left alone with a child or children and always have a safely recruited/DBS cleared member of the team in the room or toilet area with them.
- Volunteers receive induction training regarding policies and specific group practices before they start on rota.
- All volunteers complete Level 1 Safeguarding training as soon as possible and ongoing training is monitored. This may be training received from other organisations, from the Safeguarding Coordinator or update training sessions from Children/Youth Leader. Training should be recorded for each volunteer.
- Records of DBS dates, and training received by volunteers, are up to date.
- Adults are not alone with a child where their activity cannot be seen. This may mean leaving doors open, or two groups working in the same room.
- Parents/carers are clear when responsibility for their child's care transfers from them to the children's worker and is returned to them at the end of the session.
- Parents of all children attending our groups complete a Registration and Consent Form giving contact details, outlining medical needs, any food allergies and giving consent, or denying permission for photographs to be taken.
- Children with additional needs are fully integrated and protected within the church community.
- Session Diary or registration form for each session are kept up to date. If a member of staff or a volunteer has minor concerns about a child's welfare they should record this following our Care Diary procedures.
- Children's Workers/Youth Leaders attend further (level 2/3) training regarding child protection, as specified in the role description.

c) Volunteer workers will always:

- Abide by the policies outlined in this handbook, and by the specific guidelines of their groups individual working practices. The day-to-day practicalities will vary within different groups, but will never conflict with the core values and guidelines contained in this handbook.
- Attend regular safeguarding training. This may mean attending a course run by the Safeguarding Coordinator and/or periodic training from the Children's Worker or Youth Leader. If you have attended safeguarding training in other organisations then please inform your leader. This will assist us in tailoring training for you accordingly.

- Treat all children and young people with respect and dignity befitting their age; watching their language, tone of voice, body language and non-verbal signals.
- Control and discipline children and young people without using physical punishment or derogatory names. The behaviour policy or code of conduct will be adhered to and promoted with the children/youth.
- Report any concerns to a leader on the team or to the leadership if necessary.

3. Definitions of harm - taken from Working Together Guidance 2015

Abuse

A form 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 others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

A form of abuse which 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

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

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

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); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

This is not an exhaustive list and it must be recognised that it is not the role of staff or volunteers to make an assessment of whether children or young people have suffered harm. Staff, volunteers and designated safeguarding leads do have a duty to report any concerns about harm in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Guidelines and Procedures.

4. Other forms of abuse

There is a brief overview at the end of this policy of other forms of abuse that can affect the children that come under our care and use our services. Having an awareness of these other types of abuse is useful, they are areas of abuse that are growing in significance as more cases come to light.

See [Appendix 2: 'Other forms of abuse'](#) for more information, along with contact numbers to get specific help and support.

Spiritual Abuse

As a faith organisation City Gate Church is aware of the risk of spiritual abuse in its own membership, and in other churches and faith groups. Spiritual abuse is not a defined category under law, but the position of authority and trust afforded to a spiritual leader can be used inappropriately as a vehicle for other forms of abuse, such as emotional, psychological, physical, sexual and financial abuse.

Across the four UK nations, there are varying government definitions of the major recognised forms of spiritual abuse. However, currently there is no single agreed definition.

Thirtyone:eight produced a statement in 2018 that can be found here:

<https://thirtyoneeight.org/media/4upcux21/spiritual-abuse-position-statement.pdf>

This states that "Spiritual abuse is characterised by an ongoing, systematic pattern of coercive control within a religious context (Oakley, 2017). Key elements of this experience are manipulation, exploitation, control through the misuse and abuse of scripture and divine position, censorship of decision-making, pressure to conform, enforced accountability, requirement of obedience, and isolation (Oakley 2009, Oakley and Kinmond 2013). Emotional abuse and psychological abuse are similarly characterised by perpetuating patterns of behaviour that include blaming, shaming, intimidation and controlling behaviour. As in all other types of abuse, spiritual abuse will sometimes co-exist with and be used to legitimise other forms of abuse and harmful cultures."

5. Recognition of harm

Recognising physical abuse

The following are often regarded as indicators of concern:

- An explanation which is inconsistent with an injury;
- Several different explanations provided for an injury;
- Unexplained delay in seeking treatment;
- The parents / carers are uninterested or undisturbed by an accident or injury;
- Parents are absent without good reason when their child is presented for treatment;
- Repeated presentation of minor injuries (which may represent a 'cry for help' and if ignored could lead to a more serious injury);
- Family use of different doctors and A&E departments;
- Reluctance to give information or mention previous injuries.

All bruising in non-mobile children should be considered non-accidental and should be referred for an assessment.

Bite marks, scars and fractures are all indicators of concern.

Burns and scalds can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental and will always require experienced medical opinion. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g.:

- Circular burns from cigarettes (but may be friction burns if along the bony protuberance of the spine);
- Linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements;
- Burns of uniform depth over a large area;
- Scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid (a child getting into hot water of its own accord will struggle to get out and cause splash marks);
- Old scars indicating previous burns/scalds which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation.
- Scalds to the buttocks of a small child, particularly in the absence of burns to the feet, are indicative of dipping into a hot liquid or bath.

Recognising emotional abuse

Emotional abuse may be difficult to recognise, as the signs are usually behavioural rather than physical. The manifestations of emotional abuse might also indicate the presence of other kinds of abuse.

The indicators of emotional abuse are often also associated with other forms of abuse.

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse:

- Developmental delay;
- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent/carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or no attachment;
- Indiscriminate attachment or failure to attach;
- Aggressive behaviour towards others;
- Scapegoated within the family;
- Frozen watchfulness, particularly in preschool children;
- Low self-esteem and lack of confidence;
- Withdrawn or seen as a 'loner' - difficulty relating to others.

Recognising sexual abuse and exploitation

Boys and girls of all ages may be sexually abused and exploited and are frequently scared to say anything due to guilt and/or fear. This is particularly difficult for a child to talk about and a full account should be taken of the cultural sensitivities of any individual child / family.

Recognition can be difficult, unless the child discloses and is believed. There may be no physical signs and indications are likely to be emotional / behavioural.

Some behavioural indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Inappropriate sexual conduct;
- Sexually explicit behaviour, play or conversation, inappropriate to the child's age;
- Continual and inappropriate or excessive masturbation;
- Self-harm (including eating disorder), self-mutilation and suicide attempts;
- Indiscriminate choice of sexual partners;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- An anxious unwillingness to remove clothes for - e.g. sports events (but this may be related to cultural norms or physical difficulties);
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late;
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education;
- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol.

Some physical indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Pain or itching of genital area;
- Blood on underclothes;
- Pregnancy in a younger girl where the identity of the father is not disclosed;
- Physical symptoms such as injuries to the genital or anal area, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and thighs, sexually transmitted infections, presence of semen on vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing.

A child under 13 years is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 involving a child aged under 13 years is very serious and should be taken to indicate that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm. Cases involving children under 13 years old will always be discussed with the Safeguarding lead or deputy for City Gate Church.

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, penetrative sex with a child under 13 years old is classed as rape. Where the allegation concerns penetrative sex, or other intimate sexual activity occurs, there would always be reasonable cause to suspect that a child, whether girl or boy, is suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm. There should be a presumption that the case will be reported to Children's Services/MASH.

Sexual activity with a child aged under 16 years is also an offence. Where it is consensual it may be less serious than if the child were aged under 13 years but may, nevertheless, have serious consequences for the welfare of the young person. Consideration should be given in every case of sexual activity involving a child aged 13-15 as to whether there should be a discussion with other agencies and whether a referral should be made to Children's Services/MASH.

It is illegal (England and Wales) for those in Positions of Trust in a faith setting to engage in sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old under their care or supervision. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and

Courts Act 2022, has been broadened to include “sport” and “religion”. This includes anyone who: ‘coaches, teaches, trains, supervises or instructs someone under 18, on a regular basis, in a sport or a religion’. Sexual activity involving a 16 or 17 year old, even if it does not involve an offence, may still involve harm or the likelihood of harm being suffered.

Recognising Neglect

Evidence of neglect is built up over a period of time and can cover different aspects of parenting. Indicators include:

- Failure by parents or carers to meet the basic essential needs e.g. adequate food, clothes, warmth, hygiene and medical care;
- A child seen to be listless, apathetic and unresponsive with no apparent medical cause;
- Failure of child to grow within normal expected pattern, with accompanying weight loss;
- Child thrives away from home environment;
- Child frequently absent from school;
- Child left with adults who are intoxicated or violent;
- Child abandoned or left alone for excessive periods.

The harm or possible harm of a child may come to the church’s attention in a number of possible ways;

- Information given by the child, his/ her friends, a family member or close associate.
- The child’s behaviour may become different from the usual, be significantly different from the behaviour of their peers, be bizarre or unusual or may involve ‘acting out’ a harmful situation in play.
- An injury which arouses suspicion because:
 - It does not make sense when compared with the explanation given.
 - The explanations differ depending on who is giving them (e.g., differing explanations from the parent / carer and child).
 - The child appears anxious and evasive when asked about the injury.
- Suspicion is raised when a number of factors occur over time, for example, the child fails to progress and thrive in contrast to his/her peers.
- Contact with individuals who pose a ‘risk to children’ (‘Guidance on Offences Against Children’, Home Office Circular 16/2005). This replaces the term ‘Schedule One Offender’ and relates to an individual that has been identified as presenting a risk or potential risk of harm to children. This can be someone who has been convicted of an offence listed in Schedule One of the Children and Young Person’s Act 1933 (Sexual Offences Act 2003), or someone who has been identified as continuing to present a risk to children.
- The parent’s behaviour before the birth of a child may indicate the likelihood of significant harm to an unborn child, for example substance misuse, or previous children removed from their carers.

6. Acting on concerns – recording what you see, or are told by a child

If a member of staff or a volunteer has minor concerns about a child’s welfare they should record this following our Care Diary procedures.

There will be children who are not suffering from significant risk of harm or abuse, perhaps you notice small one-off concerns, but over time it might be that a pattern of small concerns become a worry. Those children who are in need of extra support and care can be helped through support offered to parents who may be struggling with a wide range of issues. Poor parenting can come from many pressures on families, and with the help of universal services in the area, go on to improve and provide a good home for their family. Tracking concerns in the Care Diary system will monitor this. However, if there is no

improvement due to the parent not engaging, and a child continues to struggle and not thrive then this will need to be recorded more formally and referred to Children's Services.

See [Appendix 3: Register](#) and [Appendix 4: Care Report](#)

No professional, staff or volunteer should assume that someone else will pass on information which they think may be critical to keeping a child safe.

Managing a disclosure

If a child tells you they are suffering from abuse, then you will need to manage that disclosure sensitively and record what you were told ready to refer it to the police or children's services as needed. Remember to record what the child told you in their own words, stay as close to what you were told without adding your opinions.

- Listen to what the child has to say with an open mind.
- Do not ask probing or leading questions designed to get the child to reveal more.
- Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Make note of the discussion, taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, as well as what was said.
- Do not ask children to write a statement.
- Never promise the child that what they have told you can be kept secret. Explain that you have a responsibility to report what the child has said to someone else.
- The designated lead for child protection in your church or project must be informed immediately, and/or a member of the leadership team.
- 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.

If any member of the team believes a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm, then they should record the information on a Safeguarding Incident Report Form and share the information with the local authority children's services (Working Together 2015).

See [Appendix 5: Safeguarding Incident Report Form](#)

7. Referring or reporting concerns about a child

The designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Deputy will act on behalf of City Gate Church in referring concerns or allegations of harm to:

Brighton and Hove Front Door for Families

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/families-children-and-learning/front-door-families>

Tel: 01273 290400

Email: FrontDoorForFamilies@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Or click on the link below to go to their online referral form.

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-safeguarding-concern>

Designated Professionals in Brighton & Hove

Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children: 01273 238703

Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children: 01273 238703 / 07770 381421

Brighton & Hove Police Child Protection Team: 101 (ask for Brighton Safeguarding Investigation Unit)

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Safeguarding & Reviewing Service – Portslade Hub, Mile Oak, Portslade, BN41 2PG

Email: ladoenquiries@brighton-hove.gov.uk Tel: 01273 292379

We commit to ensure that any significant concern will be passed on to the appropriate agency, such as the police or Children's Services.

It is not the role of the designated safeguarding lead to undertake an investigation into the concerns or allegation of harm. It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to collate and clarify details of the concern or allegation and to provide this information to our local children's services whose duty it is to make enquiries in accordance with Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

If there are situations where the nominated people are not available to take the concern to the relevant agencies, then every member of the public has a duty to report a concern, so please feel free to contact Children's Services or the Police directly.

Urgent referrals relating to Child Protection

Emergency/Out of Hours

To contact Children's Services outside normal working hours, call 01273 335905.

If a child is in immediate danger or left alone, you should contact the police or call an Ambulance (Call 999). The police operator will need to take your name, address and details of what has happened. This will take time, but it is important to get all of the information from you so that we can send the appropriate resources to you if necessary.

Seeking Medical Attention

If a child has a physical injury and there are concerns about abuse:

If medical attention is required then this should be sought immediately by phoning for an ambulance, attending the Emergency Department or Minor Injury Unit depending on the severity of the injury. You should then follow the procedures for referring a child protection concern to Children's Services as before. Any safeguarding concerns should be shared with the Ambulance staff/ Medical and Nursing staff in order that they can appropriately assess and treat the child and share relevant information.

Allegations of physical injury, neglect or emotional abuse.

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Officer/Deputy will contact Children's Services as before but will not tell the parents or carers unless Children's Services have advised the church to do so.

Allegations of sexual abuse

If there are concerns regarding sexual abuse or a disclosure from a child regarding sexual abuse then the Designated Safeguarding Officer/Deputy will immediately contact the police or children's services. This must not be shared with the parent/carer and the professional agencies will take over this process.

If there is concern about an adult suffering from abuse, then the Designated Safeguarding Officer/Deputy will contact Adult Safeguarding Services Access point on 01273 295555.

<https://www.bhsab.org.uk>

The procedures remain the same for recording and reporting: a record must be made of the concerns seen, or of the disclosure of abuse recorded. A call must be made to the Adult Safeguarding Team, or the emergency services if they need medical attention or a crime has been committed.

Please refer to our Safeguarding Adults Policy for further information under the Care Act 2014. This also includes the many different forms of abuse adults face such as domestic violence, financial abuse, hate crime and institutional abuse, and others.

Consent

Professionals should seek to discuss any concerns with the family (including the child where appropriate) and where possible seek their agreement to making referrals. This should only be done where such discussion and agreement seeking will not place the child at an increased risk of significant harm.

It should be noted that parents, carers or children may not agree to information being shared, but this should not prevent referrals where child protection concerns persist. The reasons for dispensing with consent from the parents; carer or child should be clearly recorded.

In cases where an allegation has been made against a family member living in the same household as the child and it is your view that discussing the matter with the parent would place the child at risk of harm, or where discussing it may place a member of staff / volunteer at risk, consent does not have to be sought prior to the referral being made.

See [Appendix 1: Seven Golden rules on information sharing](#)

8. Recruitment and selection

It is important when recruiting paid staff and volunteers to adhere to City Gate Church recruitment policy. This will ensure potential staff and volunteers are screened for their suitability to work with children and young people.

City Gate Church recognises its staff and volunteers being essential to its success. As well as appointing staff and volunteers with the right skills and attributes to fulfil our strategic aims and values, we also provide a robust recruitment and selection process to ensure all who are appointed are safely recruited to work with children.

We work with the standards and processes outlined by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

A person who is barred from working with children will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer or try to work or volunteer with those groups.

City Gate Church understands they should never knowingly employ someone who is barred to work with these groups as they would be breaking the law. If there is an incident where a member of staff or volunteer has to be dismissed because they have harmed a child City Gate Church will notify the DBS. Our full recruitment and selection process is available on request and is covered in safer recruitment training.

Recruiting ex-offenders

We do not discriminate against those who have other criminal offences that do not bar them from working with children. We will always assess the risk in any situation and look to place those that have previous convictions or cautions in roles that best suit them.

9. Code of Conduct for working with children and young people

City Gate Church issues a code of conduct to all staff and volunteers during their induction period outlining expectations of conduct during their time serving or ministering. A printable summary to be completed by each person working with children / young people is found in [Appendix 6](#).

Promoting good practice and a safeguarding culture

City Gate Church takes the safeguarding of children and young people seriously.

All leaders, trustees, staff and volunteers have a duty of care to the children and young people that they serve or work with. This includes taking responsibility for your own behaviour and attitude when working with them.

Alongside the practical issues of ensuring City Gate Church provides safe activities and ministry, we also need to ensure behaviour and actions are reflecting safe practice too. The safeguarding code of conduct outlines practical examples of the minimum standards required. However, this list is not exhaustive.

The following provides a guide to helping create a safe and protective culture for young people, staff and volunteers. For full guidance in relation to child protection procedures please read the full City Gate Church Child Protection Policy.

Practice to be encouraged:

- Treat all children and young people with respect and dignity
- Involve young people in the decisions that affect them
- Always work in an open environment, avoiding private or unobserved situations
- Maintain a safe and appropriate distance with young people (e.g. not sharing tents, shower facilities or having an inappropriate or intimate relationship)
- When organising events and meetings for children and young people, or their attendance at events/meetings, the following information/documentation should be requested by City Gate Church staff in relation to each child or young person attending the event/meeting:
 - A Consent Form for all events or specific activities;
 - Contact details for the family/guardians, including emergency contact numbers;
 - Information relating to any special issues, needs or requirements (e.g. medical, health, diet, language assistance)
 - Use a reporting form to keep a clear note of any incidents or concerns
 - If physical contact is necessary (e.g. in an emergency), tell the young person clearly what you are doing and why, seek their permission and give choices where possible. If possible, ensure that another worker is present.
 - Every activity, event or session should be risk assessed to maintain the safety of young people.
 - When working with a mixed gender group, there should be staff/volunteers of mixed genders to manage all activities

Practice to be avoided:

- Workers should not give lifts in their car to individual children or young people or travel alone with young people. Where not doing this would compromise City Gate Church's Health and Safety Policy (e.g. leaving a young person alone at a venue) you should attempt to phone the parent/guardian of the young person to confirm what you will be doing. You should also ask the young person to sit in the back seat.
- Workers should not take young people to their home or that of another worker.
- Workers should avoid situations where they are alone with young people. Where a private meeting with a lone child/young person is unavoidable it should be held in an open place in view

of others or in a room visible to those outside and where a colleague has agreed to visually monitor the meeting. If a young person participates in a review of their involvement in a programme as a result of disruptive or unacceptable behaviour, it is advisable that this review is witnessed by a second staff member/volunteer.

- Workers should not use their own 'personal' electronic communications (e.g. mobile phones, social networking sites) for contacting young people, unless agreed by the management committee. A safe way may be agreed e.g. a WhatsApp group that includes 2 or more adults.

Unacceptable practice:

- Invading the privacy of children and young people when they are toileting or showering, changing or dressing.
- Inappropriate physical or sexually provocative games
- Sharing sleeping accommodation with an individual child or young person
- Making sexually suggestive comments about or to a child or young person even in fun
- Inappropriate and intrusive touching of any form
- Scape-goating or ridiculing a child or young person
- Allowing inappropriate, foul, sexualised or discriminatory language to remain unchallenged
- Any form of physical punishment
- Illegal use of drugs
- Use of alcohol during an event
- Bullying of any form, including name calling or constant criticism
- 'Picking on' a young person because of their family background, manner of dress or physical characteristic
- Racism or sectarianism of any form
- Favouritism and exclusion - all young people should be equally supported and encouraged
- Abusive language or gestures

If any of the following occur you must report it to City Gate Church's Safeguarding Lead, Cathy Wilkins, or deputy lead, Patrick Stranack:

- A young person is hurt
- He/she seems distressed in any manner
- A young person appears to be sexually aroused by your actions
- A young person misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done
- An allegation is made about you or a colleague.

What to do:

If you are in any doubt about your behaviour or conduct not meeting guidelines, or you feel inexperienced in your position, please do chat to someone on your team to check or receive training.

Accountability is key.

If you have a concern about someone else's behaviour on team do 'go to them' and ask if they realise that their behaviour may be misconstrued. They may not have realised how it could look or have not received training on policies or safeguarding best practice. If you don't feel able to, please talk to your team leader and discuss your concern. You must not ignore a concern and dismiss it as nothing.

Passing on a concern is key.

If the behaviour of a team member is clearly breaking guidelines and is of a high concern, please report this to your team leader at once, they will be able to respond to this appropriately and must take immediate action. **Reporting risky behaviour is key.**

If you have a concern about a child, or they share a concern, or disclose abuse, you must pass on that information to the team leader or designated safeguarding lead immediately. Follow your reporting a safeguarding concern policy. **Reporting a concern or a disclosure of abuse is key.**

10. Managing offenders who pose a risk

For those that do pose a risk to children or adults through convictions that include sexual or violent crimes, City Gate Church will work with all agencies and the advice given either by police or probation, or Multi Agency Public Protection Agency advice (MAPPA). Each offender will be issued a behaviour contract confirming how their attendance at church will be managed. This might involve having an escort, restrictions on movement around the building along with further assessments made for other events such as a church BBQ's or home groups.

11. Allegations against staff members / volunteers

If any member of staff or volunteer has concerns about the behaviour or conduct of another individual working within the group or organisation including:

- Behaving in a way that has harmed, 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 the nature of the allegation or concern should be reported to the Safeguarding Lead for dealing with allegations within the organisation immediately.

The member of staff who has a concern about a team member, or to whom an allegation or concern is reported should not question the child or investigate the matter further.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer for City Gate Church will report the matter to the Designated Officer within Children's Services at the Local Authority. This position was formerly known as Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the term is still often in use.

City Gate Church will always report any member of staff or volunteer they have concerns about to the appropriate authorities depending on the seriousness of the situation. We will take all advice offered to us and cooperate fully.

Appendix 1: Seven Golden rules of information sharing:

In July 2018, the government published revised practice guidance "*Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers*". Below are the 7 golden rules of information sharing that this guidance recommends, in line with new data protection laws.

1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice from other practitioners if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be certain of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
5. Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

Appendix 2: Other forms of abuse

Domestic Abuse

The prevention of domestic abuse and the protection of all victims lies at the heart of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('the 2021 Act') and its wider programme of work. Controlling behavior is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, section 38 recognises that a child is a victim of domestic abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse and are related to either victim or perpetrator of the abuse, or either the victim or perpetrator of the abuse has parental responsibility for that child.

Section 68 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 came into force on 5 April 2023 and removed the 'living together' requirement for the controlling or coercive behaviour offence, which means that the offence

applies to partners, ex-partners or family members, regardless of whether the victim and perpetrator live together.

Forced Marriage

Children from some communities in the UK are still being forced into marriage at a very young age and those of any age, especially those without the mental capacity to make a choice. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. This includes taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place); marrying someone who lacks mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured or not); Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order. Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison.

Honour Based Violence

Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community.

It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture. For example, honour based violence might be committed against people who:

become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion; want to get out of an arranged marriage; want to get out of a forced marriage; wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture.

Women and girls are the most common victims of honour based violence however it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of 'honour' do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' might include:

- domestic abuse
- threats of violence
- sexual or psychological abuse
- forced marriage
- being held against your will or taken somewhere you don't want to go
- assault

(Safe.Met.Police.UK)

Honour based violence will commonly start when children try to live and fit in a more westernised culture, starting relationships which causes shame and distress to the family. Take any concerns a person may have about their safety seriously and seek professional help immediately. Do not try to resolve this in any way yourself.

Female Genital Mutilation

Between April and June 2015, there were 1,026 newly recorded cases of FGM in England, (Health & Social Care Information Centre). City University London figures suggest that nearly 10,000 girls under 14 years of age have undergone FGM in the UK. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it illegal to: practice FGM in the UK; take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM, whether or not it is lawful in the country of destination; aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad.

If you are concerned a child may be taken abroad for FGM, or that it may have already occurred please contact support helplines in Appendix 5.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation can take many forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for attention/affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime and child trafficking. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.

"Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability". (From 'Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation', Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children.)

Trafficking

Child trafficking and modern slavery are child abuse. Many children and young people are trafficked into the UK from other countries like Vietnam, Albania and Romania. Children are also trafficked around the UK. (Information from NSPCC website.)

Trafficking is where children and young people tricked, forced or persuaded to leave their homes and are moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. Children are trafficked for:

- sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic slavery like cleaning, cooking and childcare
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- committing crimes, like begging, theft, working on cannabis farms or moving drugs.

Trafficked children experience many types of abuse and neglect. Traffickers use physical, sexual and emotional abuse as a form of control. Children and young people are also likely to be physically and emotionally neglected and may be sexually exploited.

Exploitation by radicalisers who promote violence involves the exploitation of susceptible people who are drawn into violent extremism by radicalisers. Violent extremists often use a persuasive rationale and charismatic individuals to attract people to their cause. The aim is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. The Prevent Strategy, launched in 2007, seeks to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It is the preventative strand of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018

Child criminal exploitation: County Lines

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse.

City Gate Church recognises that criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity - drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Brighton & Hove has had several drug gang situations and arrests.

Children and young people may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. Other forms of criminal exploitation include child sexual exploitation, trafficking, gang and knife crime. County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police.

Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults;
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.

Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs, and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999. If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger you should report your concern to the DSL without delay. The DSL will contact the multi-agency safeguarding hub for advice or other agencies as needed.

County Lines: Criminal Exploitation of children and adults who may be vulnerable or at risk (Home Office Guidance)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf

Appendix 3: Register

Children aged 4 years to 11 years. **Adult to child ratio for group: 1:4**

| Leader: (Don't forget complete evaluation and care details - on back page - after the session) | | | | | Date: |
|--|------|-----|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| Helpers: 1. 2. 3. If 10 children or fewer, please only keep 3 adults in session | | | | | Visiting adults or parents: |
| No | Name | DOB | Medical details | Dietary requirements | Adults other than parents who can collect |
| Regularly attending children with Registration and Consent forms: | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |
| Visiting children (parents need to complete registration form) | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | |

- Do not allow a child to be taken out without the appropriate carer/named person to collect.
- Use the tick column for parent/carer to add their initials.

If you have any queries about a child being collected, perhaps a new person coming to collect for the first time a child that isn't their own please feel empowered to double check things. Another team member can be sent to find the children's worker or someone else that can manage and support the decision. A genuine parent/person will more probably be grateful that you are double checking. Remember that some children attending are/might be fostered and under strict rules of contact with adults in their life.

Please ensure this and the Evaluation Sheet are completed and locked away after the session for data protection.

Evaluation of session: To be completed after the session

How the session went – what worked well - what didn't go so well or what you would change in the future, Spiritual objectives met, activities that engaged the children.

Resources running low or needed – check supplies cupboard first for tissues, wipes, cups, snacks, stationery.

Cleaning or health and safety issues

Any other information you would like to pass on to Children's Lead or the rest of the team.

Appendix 4: Care Report

Note down any incidents, out of character behaviours or concerns about individual children that might need to be monitored.

Any information that is so concerning that it might require urgent action should be brought to the attention of the Children's Worker: Amanda Lane or the Designated Safeguarding Officer Cathy Wilkins as soon as possible. A full incident form will be required.

If necessary, we will call the Children Services team for advice or to make a referral (01273 290400). Out of hours: 01273 335905 or in an emergency, dial 999.

Child's Name _____

Witness / Person reporting care concern _____

Description of concern (Use body map to record injuries observed, if appropriate)

Signed _____ **Date** _____ **Time** _____

This information is strictly confidential and must be securely stored. The children's worker will check and file forms after each session noting any pattern of concerns. Follow up incident forms will be kept separately.

Appendix 5: Safeguarding Incident Report Form

| Details of Child/Children and their parents/Carer | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Name of child: | | |
| Gender: Male/Female | Age: | Date of birth: |
| Parent's / Carer's names(s): | | |
| Home Address: | | |
| Contact numbers: | | |
| Your Details: | | |
| Your name: | Your position | Date and time of incident: |
| Report: | | |
| Are you reporting your own concerns or responding to concerns raised by someone else? | | |
| Responding to my own concerns Responding to concerns raised by someone else | If responding to concerns raised by someone else, give their name and position within church/group: | |
| Please provide details of the incident or concerns you have, including times, dates or other relevant information (describe and injuries) and whether fact, opinion or hearsay: | | |
| The child's account of what has happened and how (use exact wording as far as possible and do not ask leading questions): | | |
| Have you spoken to the parents? Yes No | If yes, please provide details of what was said: | |
| Have you spoken to the child? Yes No | If yes, please provide details of what was said: | |
| Have you spoken to the person against whom the allegations are being made? Yes No | If yes, please provide details of what was said: | |

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| Further action taken to date: | | |
| What other agencies are you aware of that are involved with the family, and have you contacted any of them? E.g. school, GP, Health visitor, preschool etc. | | |
| Have you informed the statutory authorities? | | |
| Children's Social Care Yes No | If yes, please provide name and number of person contacted: | |
| Police Yes No | If yes, please provide name and number of person contacted: | |
| <p>Data protection</p> <p>As the person completing this form, you must notify each person whose information you include about what will happen to their information and how it may be disclosed except to the extent that doing so would prejudice either the prevention or detection of a crime or the apprehension or prosecution of an offender</p> | | |
| Your signature | Date | Time |
| Please provide details of any witnesses to the incident(s): | | |

Appendix 6: Safeguarding Code of Conduct in Summary

Safeguarding Code of Conduct - Your personal responsibilities

- Respect everyone regardless of gender, disability, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation
- Put the safety of a child before personal or organisational goals or loyalty to friends and colleagues
- Form appropriate relationships based on mutual trust and respect
- Be committed to preventing the exploitation and abuse of children who might be at risk

Touch – Use touch appropriately. Only when necessary to the task, only when others are present, ask permission first, keep it minimal and age appropriate.

Behaviour – Be friendly but avoid being over familiar. No games with inappropriate physical contact, sexually suggestive comments, inappropriate language, doing anything of a personal nature for a child or young person

Environment – Avoid being on your own or in a closed environment with a child/young person. Instead have someone else present, leave doors open, have others in eyesight/earshot.

Transportation – Make sure a child or young person is not left without transport home but avoid transporting a child or young person, alone in your vehicle. If you have no other option they should sit in the back, and you should phone someone to let them know what you are doing to make yourself accountable. You could ask the child to use your phone or theirs, to chat to a parent, friend, during the journey so that their time in the car is accountable.

Position of trust – Your role, age or just the badge you wear, gives you and your colleagues a position of trust which should not be abused. You need to exemplify best practice and conduct at all times.

Disclosure – If a child discloses information to you about a possible abuse situation, either concerning another member of staff, or anyone else (parent/guardian, friend) you must report their disclosure as soon as possible to your line manager or the Safeguarding Designated Person, who may take action, including involving external agencies if necessary.

Find out the child's name and some facts about what happened by asking open (not leading) questions. Make factual notes and pass these on to your line manager or the Safeguarding Designated Person. Do not promise confidentiality. Reassure the person you believe in them and will find them help by sharing it with the right person.

Statement: I am signing this Code of Conduct to agree that I have read and understood what is expected of me.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Please print and sign and return to the safeguarding lead. If sending electronically, please reply to the email this was attached to and cut and paste the statement above.

Appendix 7: Useful contact numbers and websites

| Type of Abuse | Organisation | Number | Website / Email | Notes |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|---|---|
| All | Childline | 0800 1111 | www.childline.org.uk | 24 hour line for children and young people to talk about things worrying them |
| All | NSPCC – Child Protection helpline | 0808 800 5000 | help@nspcc.org.uk | 24 hour line for adults worried about the safety of a child |
| All | Thirtyone: eight | 0303 003 1111 | https://thirtyoneeight.org/ | Offers help, information and advice to churches and other faith organisations. |
| All | Adult Safeguarding Services Access point | 01273 295555 | https://www.bhsab.org.uk | |
| Domestic Violence | Women's Aid | 0808 2000 247 | womensaid.org.uk | 24 hour National DV helpline |
| Forced marriage and HBV | Forced Marriage Unit | 020 7008 0151 | https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/forced-marriage/forced-marriage-support-organisations/ | Website has links to other support organisations |
| Female Genital Mutilation | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 0207 008 1500 | fgm@fco.gov.uk | If you are concerned that a British citizen may be taken overseas for the purpose of FGM |
| Female Genital Mutilation | NSPCC FGM helpline | 0800 028 3550 | fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk | |
| Female Genital Mutilation | Forward | 07834 168 141 | www.forwarduk.org.uk | Provides support, counselling and safe space for girls and women to talk about their FMG experiences. |
| Human Trafficking | NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre | 0808 800 5000 | help@nspcc.org.uk | Monday – Friday 09:30am -4:30pm |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|---|--|
| Human Trafficking | Salvation Army Trafficking helpline | 0300 3038151 | www.salvationarmy.org.uk/international-development/areas-work/anti-trafficking/national-rescue | 24 hour/ 7 days a week. Call this number if you suspect someone is a victim of Human Trafficking. |
| Human Trafficking | NRM – National Referral Mechanism for Human Trafficking | | www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk | National Crime Agency gives more details on their website of referral agencies that can be used to support those affected by Human Trafficking |

Appendix 8: City Gate Church and local contact numbers

City Gate Church

Lead Elder: Gwyn Davies

Oversight for Children's and Youth work and Safeguarding/ Child Protection: Gwyn Davies

Safeguarding / Child Protection Lead: Cathy Wilkins 07812 497877

Deputy Safeguarding / Adult Protection Lead: Patrick Stranack

Children's Work Team Leader: Amanda Lane

Youth Leader: vacant.

Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding: Gwyn Davies (acting)

Thirtyone:eight Christian safeguarding charity advice line: 0303 003 1111

Brighton & Hove

See p.10 **Referring or reporting concerns about a child**

Urgent referrals relating to Child Protection

Emergency/Out of Hours

To contact Children's Services outside normal working hours (M-F, 9-5), call 01273 335905.

Brighton & Hove Police Child Protection Team: 101 (ask for Brighton Safeguarding Investigation Unit)