

City Gate Church UK

Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Version 3

This adult safeguarding policy was updated by CGCUK Safeguarding Team: October 2025

Approved by the CGCUK Board of Trustees: January 2026

Review date: October 2027

Updated	Version	Due for review
October 2023	2	October 2025
October 2025	3	October 2027

Introduction	2
Who may be vulnerable?	2
1.1 Aims and Principles of Adult Safeguarding	3
1.2 Aims of City Gate policy	3
2. Abuse of adults and safeguarding	4
2.1 The Care Act 2014 definition of an adult needing care and support	4
2.2 Person-led safeguarding	4
3: Recognising Adult Abuse	5
3.1 What is Adult Abuse	5
3.2 Where and how might abuse occur	5
3.3 The main forms of abuse	5
3.4 Other forms of abuse to consider:	6
3.5 Managing offenders who pose a risk	9
4: Responding to a disclosure	9
4.1 Principles	9
4.2 Witnessing abuse	10
5. Referring a concern or disclosure	10
5.1 Reporting	10
5.2 Supporting immediate needs	11
5.3 Sharing Information	12

5.4 Consent	12
5.5 Mental capacity	13
6. Responding to allegations/concerns against a member of staff or volunteer	13
6.1 Reporting abuse for investigation	13
6.2 Internal investigation for staff or volunteers	14
6.3 Disclosure & Barring Service - referrals	14
7: Recording Information	15
7.1 Using an incident reporting form	15
7.2 Preserving evidence	15
7.3 Confidentiality	15
Appendix 1 SAFEGUARDING ADULT INCIDENT REPORTING FORM	17
Appendix 2 Safeguarding Code of Conduct - Your responsibilities	19
Appendix 3: Useful contact numbers and websites	21
City Gate Church	22

Introduction

At City Gate Church Brighton, we believe each person has 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, young people and adults who may be vulnerable or at risk, 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 at risk, 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, young people and adults who may be vulnerable or at risk, remains paramount. Adults are those defined by law as being over 18 years of age.

City Gate Church believes that all adults, no matter their sex, disability, racial or ethnic background, religious beliefs or sexual orientation, have the right to be in a safe, caring environment. We are committed to ensuring that they are valued, listened to, and respected within the work that we do.

Who may be vulnerable?

The Care Act 2014 applies to an adult who;

- Needs care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- 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.

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

Cathy Wilkins & as a Deputy: **Patrick Stranack**.

Our **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.

1.1 Aims and Principles of Adult Safeguarding

City Gate Church will adopt and uphold the Local Safeguarding Adults Board recommended policies and will reflect the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures - June 2024.

The aims of adult safeguarding are to:

- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs.
- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible.
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live.
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned.
- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.

The six principles of adult safeguarding are

- **Empowerment** - presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent.
- **Prevention** - it is better to take action before harm occurs.
- **Proportionality** - proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- **Protection** - support and representation for those in greatest need.
- **Partnership** - local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- **Accountability** - accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

1.2 Aims of City Gate policy

- Adopting person-led safeguarding, respecting and promoting the rights, wishes and feelings of adults.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment within our church projects and the services it provides, avoiding situations where abuse may occur.
- On-going training, supervision and support for staff and volunteers to adopt local multi-agency good practice.
- Staff and volunteers who work with adults will be subject to Safer Recruitment processes and the appropriate level of Criminal Records check through the Disclosure & Barring Service.
- Responding to any allegations appropriately and implementing the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Requiring staff and volunteers to adopt and abide by the Adult Protection Policy and procedures.

- Managing allegations against staff or volunteers appropriately, referring any member of staff or volunteer to the appropriate agencies, including the Disclosure & Barring Service if required.
- Adhering to guidance provided by Pioneer Safeguarding lead and membership of Thirtyone:Eight, which provides policy and practice advice and training.

2. Abuse of adults and safeguarding

Prevention is critical to the vision of the Care Act 2014. The care and support system must work actively together to promote wellbeing and independence rather than waiting to respond once a person has reached a crisis point. Safeguarding involves achieving a balance between protecting people and preserving their right to make decisions for themselves.

2.1 The Care Act 2014 definition of an adult needing care and support

Under the Care Act 2014 the Government expects local authorities and others to help people with care and support needs, who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs, keep them safe. But this must not mean preventing them from making their own choices and having control over their lives. Everyone in the community should understand the importance of safeguarding and help keep people safe.

This **may** include a person who:

- Is elderly or frail
- Has dementia or confusion
- Has a mental health difficulty
- Has a physical disability
- Has a learning or sensory disability
- Has a severe physical illness.

This may include a situation where a person receives care or is currently unable to protect themselves, for instance, someone who:

- Is misusing substances
- Is someone who is homeless
- Is in an abusive relationship (this can include anyone who is being sexually exploited by a partner)
- Is vulnerable due to context or experience e.g. bereavement, poverty.

2.2 Person-led safeguarding

Organisations are often wary of intervening in abusive situations if the adult does not want them to do so because of human rights and other issues. These dilemmas are very real for staff and volunteers but can lead to an approach of non-intervention which conflicts with a need to ensure a “duty of care”.

Person-led adult safeguarding follows the principle of ‘**no decision about me without me**’ and means that the adult, their families and carers are working together with agencies to find the right solutions to keep people safe and support them in making informed choices.

As a member of staff or volunteer with City Gate Church we will always ask that you strive to listen to and support the needs and requests of any adult who uses our services. For those

adults who may present with additional needs and vulnerabilities, who may also be at risk of harm or abuse, this needs to be at the forefront of our care and support.

This person-led approach to safeguarding leads to services which are: person-centred and focused on the outcomes identified by the individual; planned, commissioned and delivered in a joined-up way between different organisations, including City Gate Church, which are responsive, and which can be changed when required.

3: Recognising Adult Abuse

3.1 What is Adult Abuse

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more. Patterns of abuse may vary and include:

- serial abusing in which the perpetrator seeks out and 'grooms' individuals. Sexual abuse sometimes falls into this pattern as do some forms of financial abuse
- long-term abuse in the context of an ongoing family relationship such as domestic violence between spouses/ partners or generations or persistent psychological abuse; or
- opportunistic abuse such as theft occurring because money or jewellery has been left lying around.

(Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014, Department of Health)

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It is the use of power and/or abuse of vulnerability of a person. Abuse can consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have not consented and cannot consent.

3.2 Where and how might abuse occur

Abuse of adults may be perpetrated by a wide range of people, including spouses/partners, relatives and family members, professional staff, paid care workers, volunteers, other service users, neighbours, friends and associates, people who deliberately exploit people who might be at risk, strangers or the elderly. Mate crime happens when someone is faking a friendship in order to take advantage of a vulnerable person.

There is often particular concern when abuse is perpetrated by someone in a position of power or authority who uses his or her position to the detriment of the health, safety, welfare and general well-being of a vulnerable person. Abuse can occur in any setting. Abuse and crimes against adults may occur in different contexts. Actual or suspected abuse of persons at risk in any of the contexts below will trigger a safeguarding response in accordance with this policy.

3.3 The main forms of abuse

Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to or exploitation of, the person subjected to it. It can take a number of forms:

- **Physical abuse** e.g. hitting, pushing, shaking, inappropriate restraint, neglect or abandonment

- **Sexual abuse** e.g. involvement in any sexual activity against his/her/their will, exposure to pornography, voyeurism and exhibitionism.
- **Sexual Exploitation** is a type of abuse in which young people/ adults are sexually exploited for survival, money, power or status.
- **Emotional/psychological abuse** e.g. intimidation or humiliation, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.
- **Financial abuse** e.g. theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Discriminatory abuse** e.g. harassment, ill-treatment, threats or insults because of an adult's race, age, culture, gender, gender identity, religion, sexuality, physical or learning disability, or mental-health needs. Discriminatory abuse can also be called 'hate crime'.
- **Personal exploitation** - involves denying an individual his/her/their rights, to forcing him/her/them to perform tasks that are against his/her/their will
- **Violation of rights** e.g. preventing an individual speaking his/her/their thoughts and opinions.
- **Institutional abuse** e.g. when the routines, systems and norms of an institution compel individuals to sacrifice their own preferred style and cultural diversity to the needs of the institution
- **Neglect and acts of omission** e.g. ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. *Under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, wilful neglect and ill treatment become a criminal offence.*

3.4 Other forms of abuse to consider:

Hate crime is defined as any crime that is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be racist, homophobic, trans-phobic or due to a person's religion, belief, gender identity or disability. It should be noted that this definition is based on the perception of the victim or anyone else and is not reliant on evidence.

Mate crime happens when someone is faking a friendship in order to take advantage of a vulnerable person. Mate crime is committed by someone known to the person. They might have known them for a long time or met recently. A 'mate' may be a 'friend', family member, supporter, paid staff or another person with a disability.

Self-Neglect The Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance Chapter 14 recognises self-neglect as a type of abuse. It describes self-neglect as a wide range of behaviours; neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. Where self-neglect persists the risks to the individual may increase and could have a significant impact on the person's wellbeing. The Care Act emphasises the importance of early intervention and preventative actions to minimise risk and harm. Central to the Care Act is the wellbeing principle and focusing on decisions which are person-led, and outcomes focused. These principles are important considerations when responding to self-neglect cases.

Carers at risk of harm Carers experiencing abuse by the person they offer care to can expect the same response as any person at risk of abuse. Carers also have a legal right to

an assessment of their needs. A carer's assessment should be seen as part of the overall assessment process. Sometimes both the carer and the supported person may be at risk of harm.

Abuse between adults at risk Any organisations supporting these individuals have a responsibility to protect them from abuse as well as preventing them from causing harm to other adults. It is important the needs of the adult causing the harm are taken into consideration in the safeguarding responses for both parties.

Domestic Violence Domestic violence includes any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults or young people, who are or have been intimate partners, family members or extended family members, regardless of gender and sexuality.

Controlling behaviour 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.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim." The Serious Crime Act 2015 created a new offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or familial relationships (section 76). The offence carries a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment, a fine or both.

Domestic Abuse & Violence can be a very difficult area to support where victims of abuse feel unable to leave without putting themselves at greater risk. Specialist support should be sought where risks can be assessed and safeguarding prioritised.

More information, including where to find help can be found on the council website: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/adult-social-care/keep-people-safe/help-domestic-abuse>

Honour based violence "Honour based violence is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and or community." Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

Forced marriage A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor. [The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) FGM involves procedures that include the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. The practice is medically unnecessary, extremely painful and has serious health consequences, both at the time when the mutilation is carried out and in later life. The age at which girls undergo FGM varies enormously according to the community. The procedure

may be carried out when the girl is newborn, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during the first pregnancy. FGM constitutes a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls and has severe short-term and long-term physical and psychological consequences. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Trafficking & Modern Slavery Human trafficking is essentially the recruitment, movement or receipt of a person by deception or coercion into a situation of exploitation, this may include:

- prostitution (or other forms of sexual exploitation)
- forced labour
- slavery
- servitude, or
- the removal of organs.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 categorises offences of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour and Human Trafficking. Practice guidance relating to the national strategy to respond to Modern Slavery and human trafficking includes details of the Duty to Notify and how to refer victims into the National Referral Mechanism. In 2017, 1,694 potential adult victims were referred via duty to notify, bringing the total number of potential victims identified in 2017 to 6,837, although there are thought to be many more thousands of victims who are currently being held in slavery throughout the UK.

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, CONTEST.

Cuckooing is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for criminal activity. Organised criminal groups are increasingly targeting adults with care and support needs in this way, and the level of coercion and control involved with cuckooing often leaves the victims with little choice but to cooperate with the perpetrators.

County Lines is the police term for groups who are supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines". It can involve child criminal exploitation and using adults who are vulnerable to move drugs and money. Groups establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'. The Home Office County Lines guidance describes County Lines as a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons. County Lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation have a devastating impact on young people, adults at risk of exploitation and local communities.

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.”

3.5 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 a Church social event or home group.

4: Responding to a disclosure

4.1 Principles

It is important that an adult is given the opportunity to talk, and every effort should be made to ensure this takes place in private. The person at risk may not understand that they are being abused and so may not realise the significance of what they are telling you. Some disclosures happen many years after the abuse. There may be good reasons for this, for example the person they were afraid of, has left the setting. Therefore, any delay in an individual reporting an incident should not cast doubt on its truthfulness. Often a disclosure can be the ‘tip of the iceberg’ so it is important to believe the person.

Please take care to follow these recommended points when managing a disclosure:

- assure the person that you are taking them seriously
- listen carefully to what they are telling you, stay calm, try to get a better picture of what happened, but avoid asking too many questions
- do not give promises of complete confidentiality
- explain that you have a duty to tell your Manager or other designated person (if you are an employee/volunteer), and that their concerns may be shared with others who could have a part to play in supporting and protecting them
- reassure them that they will be involved in decisions about what will happen

- explain that you will try to take steps to protect them from further abuse or neglect
- if they have specific communication needs, provide support and information in a way that is most appropriate for them
- record the words of the person at risk and accept the statements as fact; record the full details, including the time, date and location that disclosure was made. All written notes must be made as soon as practicable and kept securely
- do not confront the person alleged to have caused the harm as this could place you at risk, or provide an opportunity to destroy evidence, or intimidate the person alleged to have been harmed or witnesses
- do not be judgemental or jump to conclusions
- staff and volunteers should follow City Gate's organisational procedures for raising the alert.

4.2 Witnessing abuse

- In situations of immediate danger take urgent action by calling the relevant emergency services i.e. Police, ambulance or GP. You may wish to challenge the person who is abusing the individuals and try to persuade them to stop whilst ensuring your personal safety is not compromised. Remember to have regard for your own safety. Leave the situation if it is not safe for you.
- Report the incident to your line manager straight away and/or Safeguarding Lead.

5. Referring a concern or disclosure

5.1 Reporting

These procedures inform all staff and volunteers of what actions they should take if they have concerns or encounter a case of alleged or suspected vulnerable adult abuse, i.e. response actions.

It is important that all staff and volunteers are aware that the first person that has concerns or encounters a case of suspected abuse is ***not responsible for deciding whether or not abuse has occurred.***

However, staff and volunteers do have a duty of care to the adult to report ***any suspicions or concerns*** you may have to a line manager/ leader/ Safeguarding Lead.

Referring or reporting to other agencies - Alerting Authorities

An alert is a concern that a 'person at risk' is suffering, or at risk of, or may be being, abused, neglected or exploited by a third party, or where a person at risk may be being harmed by others usually in a position of trust, power or authority.

Alerts can be made to Adult Services by anyone and should be made when:

- the person is a 'person who may be vulnerable or at risk' and there is a concern that they are being or are at risk of being abused, neglected or exploited
- the person is a 'person who may be vulnerable or at risk' and there is a concern that they have caused or are likely to cause harm to others
- the adult has capacity to make decisions about their own safety and wants this to happen
- the adult has been assessed as not having capacity to make a decision about their own safety, but a decision has been made in their best interests to make a referral

- a crime has been or may have been committed against an adult who lacks the mental capacity to report a crime and a 'best interests' decision is made
- the abuse or neglect has been caused by a member of staff or a volunteer
- other people or children are at risk from the person causing the harm
- the concern is about institutional or systemic abuse
- the person causing the harm is also an adult who may be vulnerable or at risk.

The Safeguarding Lead will ultimately decide whether to alert Adult Services in each case.

If you have any concerns about an adult who may be at risk of harm, contact Access Point

<https://www.bhsab.org.uk/home/reporting-concerns/> phone: 01273 295555 email hascsafeguardinghub@brighton-hove.gov.uk

In an emergency, dial 999. If you think a crime has taken place, but it is not an emergency, please call Sussex Police on 101.

If you have concerns about an adult expressing suicidal ideation: call NHS 111 and select the mental health option (Sussex Mental Healthline) or the Samaritans on 116 123 (both available 24/7)

[Help in a mental health emergency \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/help-in-a-mental-health-emergency)

***** If someone is deemed at immediate and significant risk, then the Emergency Services (999) should be contacted straight away*****

5.2 Supporting immediate needs

In line with information sharing considerations, City Gate Church may need to take the following actions:

- Make an immediate evaluation of the risk to the person at risk and any others who may be at risk.
- Take reasonable and practical steps to safeguard the person at risk as appropriate.
- Consider referring to the Police if the abuse suspected is a crime.
- If the matter is to be referred to the Police, discuss risk management and any potential forensic considerations.
- Consider the support needs of the person alleged to have caused harm if they are also an 'adult who may be vulnerable or at risk'.
- Arrange any necessary emergency medical treatment; note that offences of a sexual nature will require expert advice from the Police.
- If there is a need for an immediate Safeguarding Plan, we will refer to the relevant Adult Services or Emergency Duty Services if out of hours.
- Consider appropriate action in line with City Gate Church's procedures if a staff member or volunteer is suspected to have caused harm.

5.3 Sharing Information

The law does not prevent the sharing of sensitive, personal information within organisations. If the information is confidential, but there is a safeguarding concern, sharing it may be justified. The General Data Protection Regulations enables the lawful sharing of information.

Organisations need to share safeguarding information with the right people at the right time to:

- Prevent death or serious harm.
- Coordinate effective and efficient responses.
- Enable early interventions to prevent the escalation of risk.
- Prevent abuse and harm that may increase the need for care and support
- Maintain and improve good practice in safeguarding adults.
- Reveal patterns of abuse that were previously undetected and that could identify others at risk of abuse.
- Identify low-level concerns that may reveal people at risk of abuse.
- Help people to access the right kind of support to reduce risk and promote wellbeing.
- Help identify people who may pose a risk to others and, where possible, work to reduce offending behaviour.
- Reduce organisational risk and protect reputation.

Frontline staff and volunteers should always report safeguarding concerns in line with City Gate Church's policy – this is usually to your line manager/ leader or Safeguarding Lead in the first instance, except in emergency situations.

5.4 Consent

Wherever practicable, it is good practice to try to gain the person's consent to share information, but if the situation is urgent and high risk, and as long as it does not increase risk, staff and volunteers should inform the person if they need to share their information without consent.

There may of course be circumstances where consent cannot be obtained because the adult lacks the capacity to give it, but it is in their best interests to contact the police.

Whether or not the adult has the capacity to give consent, the police will need to be informed if other people are already or would be at risk. The police should also be informed where it is in the public interest due to the seriousness of the alleged criminal offence. In certain circumstances an adult's right to confidentiality is overruled.

Information about a suspected crime should be shared with the police in the following circumstances:

- If others are, or may be, at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Where there are legal or professional responsibilities of staff who have become aware of the concern, for example, if this relates to a breach of regulation, professional code of conduct, or an offence appears to have been committed.
- Where the adult to whom the concern relates lacks capacity and in this situation the Mental Capacity Act should be followed.

- If the adult is believed to be subject to undue influence such that they are unable to exercise free will, for example Modern Slavery, controlling and coercive behaviour or domestic violence and abuse.
- If an adult is disclosing potential criminal offences, any initial questioning should be intended only to elicit a brief account of what is alleged to have taken place. This brief account should include where and when the alleged incident took place and who was involved and should be recorded in writing at the time or as soon as possible afterwards. A more detailed account will be obtained by the police at later stage.

5.5 Mental capacity

When supporting adults you may have concerns about their ability to manage even the simplest of tasks or that they are being abused and therefore want to report this to Social Services. They will refer to the Mental Capacity Act (2005) which gives guidance on how to test a person's mental capacity to make decisions.

The act says that all adults are assumed to have the capacity to make their own decisions and be given all practicable help before anyone treats them as not being able to make their own decisions. When an adult is found to lack capacity to make a decision then any action taken, or any decision made for, or on behalf, must be made in their best interests.

Adults will sometimes make lifestyle choices that we don't agree with or seem strange to us, this is especially relevant in relation to self-neglect when people might hoard excessively or fail to care for themselves or domestic abuse where they return to an abusive partner.

6. Responding to allegations/concerns against a member of staff or volunteer

Unfortunately, those that live with, care for, work alongside or serve those that are vulnerable can be individuals who go on to abuse them.

The Care Act 2014 requires the local authority, its relevant partners and those providing care and support services, to have clear policies in place for dealing with allegations against anyone working in a position of trust. These policies should clearly distinguish between an allegation, a practice concern, a complaint and a care quality issue.

A position of trust is a paid or unpaid role when working with adults with care and support needs. If anyone becomes aware of allegations about the conduct or behaviour of an individual in a position of trust which might pose a risk to adults with care and support needs, they should raise a safeguarding concern with the local authority.

Should you ever have a concern about a person close to the adult who may be vulnerable or at risk, be that a relative or a member of your team for example you should:

- Take the allegation or concern seriously.
- Consider any allegation or concern to be potentially dangerous to the adult who may be vulnerable or at risk.
- Report to and inform (if appropriate) your Line Manager or Safeguarding Lead.
- Record in writing on an Adult Incident Form all the details that you are aware of as soon as possible.
- Request your Safeguarding Lead informs relevant persons, i.e. Adult Services, and/or the Police if appropriate.
- Also report any allegations involving a line manager/ team leader.

6.1 Reporting abuse for investigation

Concerns of abuse towards an adult at risk should be referred/reported to the area Adult Service team or the Emergency Social Services duty team if urgent and outside of normal office hours. In order to prevent a delay in raising concerns, alerts to the local authority should usually be made by contacting:

Brighton & Hove Access Point - Phone: 01273 295555

Where a crime may have been committed the Police must always be contacted, and if in any doubt, they should still be notified so that they can make that judgement.

6.2 Internal investigation for staff or volunteers

When a complaint or allegation has been made against a member of staff he/she/they must be made aware of their rights under employment legislation and internal disciplinary procedures. It is the responsibility of trustees to conduct a thorough investigation in accordance with City Gate Church's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

With a complaint/allegation against a volunteer, they must be reported and investigated in a similar way, although they do not have the same rights as an employee.

A risk assessment must be undertaken immediately to assess the level of risk to all service users posed by the member of staff/ volunteer. This must include whether it is safe for them to continue their role or any other role within the church and its projects whilst the investigation is being undertaken. The consideration of risk must be considered alongside the right of the employee. Decisions not to suspend an employee must be fully documented. Volunteers would be asked to step back from serving whilst the investigation is carried out.

Action to be considered will include the following:

- Is this a supervisory/ training issue?
- Is it a matter for discipline/ capability issue?
- Does discussion need to take place with other agencies, e.g. the Police and Adult Services?
- Is there a need to refer to Disclosure & Barring Service?

6.3 Disclosure & Barring Service - referrals

Employers and managers of volunteers working with people in regulated activity have a legal duty to make referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service in circumstances where they have permanently removed a person from the regulated activity through dismissal or permanent transfer (or would have if the person had not left, resigned, retired or been made redundant) because the person has:

- been cautioned, arrested or convicted for a relevant offence, or,
- engaged in misconduct in relation to children or adults at risk – i.e. that an action or inaction (neglect) has harmed a child or adult or put them at risk of harm, or,
- satisfied the 'Harm Test' in relation to children or adults at risk – i.e. that there has been no relevant misconduct but a risk of harm to a child or adult still exists.

Managers/ Leaders/ Safeguarding Leads must keep all involved agencies informed of outcomes of any internal investigations and disciplinary proceedings being undertaken alongside any Adult Services own safeguarding investigation.

All agencies will work together and decide on the best possible course of action for both the perpetrator and the victim.

7: Recording Information

7.1 Using an incident reporting form

As soon after the disclosure/incident as possible, record in writing on a 'Safeguarding Adult Incident Reporting Form' all the details that you are aware of and what was said using the person's own words. In order to record information as fully as possible you should include:

- The date and time.
- The person's name and address and date of birth if known.
- The nature of the allegation.
- *A description of any visible injuries.*
- *Your observations – e.g. a description of the adult's behaviour and physical and emotional state.*
- Exactly what the adult said and what you said. Record their account of what happened as closely as possible.
- Any action you took as a result of your concerns e.g. who you spoke to and resulting actions. Include names, addresses and telephone numbers.
- Sign and date what you have recorded.
- Store the information in accordance with relevant procedures, e.g. Data protection.

7.2 Preserving evidence

The first concern must be to ensure the safety and well-being of the adult you have concerns about. However, in situations where there has been or may have been a crime, and the Police have been called, it is important that forensic and other evidence is collected and preserved.

Try not to disturb the scene, clothing or victim if at all possible. Secure the scene, for example, lock the door, preserve all containers, documents, locations, etc. Evidence may be present even if it cannot actually be seen. If in doubt, contact the Police and ask for advice.

The Police will always be responsible for the gathering and preservation of evidence to pursue criminal allegations against people causing harm. However, other organisations and individuals can play a vital role in the preservation of evidence to ensure that vital information or forensics is not lost.

7.3 Confidentiality

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only, i.e.: Safeguarding Lead, Adult Services and the police. It is extremely important that allegations or concerns are not discussed, as a breach of confidentiality could be damaging to the adult, their family and any protection investigations that may follow.

Informing the parent or carers of the adult 'at risk' you may have concerns about, needs to be dealt with in a sensitive way and should be done in consultation with Adult Services.

Any individual under supervision has the right to be notified about the cause for concern. This should be done in joint consultation with Adult Services and the Police. It is important that the timing of this does not prejudice the investigation.

Recorded information should be stored in a secure place with limited access in line with data protection laws (e.g. the information stored is accurate, regularly updated, relevant and secure).

If enquiries arise from the public (including parents) or any branch of the media, it is vital that all staff and volunteers are briefed so that they do not make any comments regarding the situation. Staff and volunteers should be informed who the relevant designated spokesperson will be, and all enquiries directed through them. Staff and volunteers should reply 'no comment' to all questions/enquiries.

Appendix 1 SAFEGUARDING ADULT INCIDENT REPORTING FORM

All information will be treated in strict confidence

Date: ___/___/20___ Time: _____ Venue:

Name of Person: _____ Age: _____

Address (if known): _____

Postcode:

Telephone Number (if known): _____

Next of Kin: _____

Address (if different from above): _____

Postcode:

Telephone Number (if different from above): _____

Are there children present? Yes/No

Name of child: _____ Age: _____

Address: if different to above

Is there a child protection concern? Contact MASH if appropriate. Please complete separate form.

Are you reporting your concerns or passing on those of someone else?

Please give details:

Please give a brief description of what has prompted the concerns including dates, times etc. any specific incidents:

Any physical signs? Behavioural signs? Indirect signs?

Have you spoken to the child/person? If so what was said?

Has anybody been alleged to be the abuser? If so, give details:

Have you consulted anybody? If so give details:

Your name: _____

Position: _____

To whom reported: _____

Date of reporting: ___/___/20___

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/20__

This form should now be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead by hand in a sealed envelope marked 'Private and Confidential'.

Appendix 2 Safeguarding Code of Conduct - Your responsibilities

Alongside the practical issues of making sure our church or project provide safe activities and ministry, you also need to ensure your behaviour and actions are reflecting safe practice. This code goes some way to outline practical examples of what we would expect to see in place as a minimum. However this list is not exhaustive and needs to be applied to each ministry or project.

Always ensure you:

- **Commit yourself to the prevention of exploitation and abuse**
- **Remain fair in all your dealings with everyone** and do not show favouritism to any particular adult either with words, gifts, or extra attention. Treat everyone with respect.
- **Support and encourage adults** who may be more vulnerable at times, to be independent and to make their own choices.
- **Avoid lone working where possible.** If this is unavoidable due to the nature of your project work then follow the good practice for lone working and take advice. Pioneer or ThirtyOne:Eight can help you with this.
- **Remain in the sight or hearing** of other staff or volunteers.
- **Minister with appropriate physical contact and verbal comments**, age and gender appropriate and sensitive to ethnic/cultural identity.

Report or challenge the following:

- **Abusive activities such as ridiculing or bullying.** Educate where you can, report where you need to.
- **Suggestive, aggressive or derogatory remarks** or gestures. Model best practice of respect, choice and empowerment of individuals.
- **A colleague's behaviour or boundaries** that may have become a concern.

Do not allow your boundaries to blur by:

- **Spending regular time outside of your normal work with an individual you support** when you are in a position of trust with them. There may be situations where this is ok but check this out with your supervisor and stay accountable if it is a grey area. Keep relationships professional.
- **Messaging individuals privately** on social media or mobiles unless there is a policy stating otherwise, or full accountability to another leader is in place.
- **Carrying out personal care** such as toileting or dressing those you serve; this will not be part of your role.
- **Accepting any type of financial reward or substantial gift (a token of appreciation e.g. chocolates is fine to accept)** for any service or ministry provided.
- **Getting involved in people's personal finances.**

Disclosures

If an adult who may be vulnerable or at risk discloses information to you about a possible abuse situation, you must report the disclosure as soon as possible, to the person in charge or Safeguarding Lead, who will take appropriate action. Make a note of the conversation, following the guidelines. Do not promise confidentiality. Reassure the person you believe them and will help them by sharing it with the right person.

Remember you have a position of power and trust serving as a member of a church or Christian project and must remain above reproach. Safeguarding does not stop

appropriate care and support for the people you serve. It ensures they receive the best care and activities we can provide and protects your reputation and the projects you volunteer or work in. Be aware of the limits of your own abilities and competencies; seek further help when dealing with situations outside your expertise.

I have read and understand the City Gate Church Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures and I accept the principles therein. I agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____

Date: ___/___/20__

Name: _____

(Please print)

Position: _____

Appendix 3: Useful contact numbers and websites

Type of Abuse	Organisation	Number	Website / Email	Notes
All	*Thirtyone: eight	0303 003 1111	https://thirtyoneeight.org/	Offers help, information and advice to churches and other faith organisations.
	Thirtyone:eight Safeguarding Adults Information		https://thirtyoneeight.org/help-and-resources/help-guides/safeguarding-adults/	
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	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	Salvation Army Trafficking helpline	0300 3038151	www.salvhttps://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/international-development/areas-work/anti-trafficking ingationarmy.org.uk/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

Phone Helpline: 0303 003 1111

- Urgent enquiries (that require immediate advice)
- Recent or non-recent disclosures of abuse involving a child or adult
- Complex cases/scenarios
- Allegations against a worker
- Allegations against an organisation/charity
- International safeguarding enquiry
- Mental health concerns that have safeguarding implications for children or adults with carer and support needs
- Substance/alcohol misuse concerns
 - Advice on whether to report to statutory services (police, social care or LADO/designated professional)
 - Managing someone that poses a risk

Email Helpline*: helpline@thirtyoneeight.org

- Non-urgent enquiries (that don't require immediate advice)
- Policy advice
- Communicating safely (social media)
- Management of workers
- Working in partnership with other organisations
- Data retention
- Practice issues
- Blemished disclosure advice
- Safe recruitment processes
- Governance issues

*Please note a follow-up call may be made if required.

Helpline hours

Our email helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9am – 4:45pm. We aim to respond in one working day. Emails sent over the weekend will be picked up on Mondays.

Our phone helpline is open Monday – Friday, 9am – 4:45pm.

We also offer an emergency out-of-hours service:

Weekdays: 7am – 9am & 5pm – 12am

Weekends: 7am – 12am.

City Gate Church

Lead Elder: Gwyn Davies gwyn@citygatechurch.org.uk

Safeguarding / Child Protection Lead: Cathy Wilkins 07812 497877

safeguarding@citygatechurch.org.uk

Deputy Safeguarding / Adult Protection Lead: Patrick Stranack

Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding: Gwyn Davies