

Ascension Community Trust Safeguarding Policy

- 1. Organisation Details and Commitment**
- 2. Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse.**
- 3. Prevention**
- 4. Pastoral Care**
- 5. Practice Guidelines**

Appendix 1: Brief Summary of Safeguarding Policy

Appendix 2: Statutory Definitions of Abuse (Children)

Appendix 3: Definitions of Adult abuse

Appendix 4: Signs of Possible Abuse in Adults

Policy Adopted on: 27/03/2024

Review Date: 26/03/2025

1. ORGANISATION DETAILS AND COMMITMENT

Ascension Community Trust

Ascension Church Centre
Baxter Road
London
E16 3HJ

The Garden Community Cafe
7 Cundy Road
London
E16 3DJ

Tel No: 020 7511 1232

Email address: henry@ascensioncommunitytrust.org

Charity Number: 1091887

Company Number: 4184090

Insurance Company

Public Liability Insurance with Zurich Charities

The following is a brief description of organisation and the type of work and activities we undertake with children and adults who have care and support needs:

The organisation is based across two sites, The Ascension Church Centre and the Garden Community Café. Ascension Community Trust has three main areas: A children and families project, including a weekly Saturday football academy, an afterschool club and regular fun days and holiday schemes. A Poverty Response project, including a benefits advice service and a foodbank. A complex needs project, supporting children and adults with learning difficulties and mental health issues.

Our commitment

As a Leadership we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people, and adults. We acknowledge that children, young people, and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to “all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”. We also concur with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child.” As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on the ten **Safe and Secure** safeguarding standards published by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS).

The Leadership undertakes to:

- Endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
- Provide on-going safeguarding training for all its workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.
- Ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.
- Support the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) in their work and in any action, they may need to take in order to protect children and adults with care and support needs.
- The Leadership agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

Understanding abuse and neglect

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

In order to safeguard those in our organisation we adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 19 which states:

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

Also, for adults the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular reference to Article 5 which states:

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

Detailed definitions are included in appendix 2 and 3. Signs and symptoms of abuse are detailed in appendix 4.

Safeguarding awareness

The Leadership is committed to on-going safeguarding training and development opportunities for all workers, developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect everyone. All our workers will receive induction training and undertake recognised safeguarding training on a regular basis from CCPAS using their on-line learning course. We will also encourage staff to attend the free training provided by Newham Child Safeguarding Board.

The Leadership will also ensure that children and adults with care and support needs are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

2. RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. Following procedures as below:

- The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to Henry Gaspard (hereafter the "Safeguarding Co-ordinator") Tel. no: 07783190593, who is nominated by the Leadership to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- In the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, then the report should be made to Leanne Malpass (hereafter the "Deputy ") Tel no: 020 7511 1232. If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the Deputy, then the report should be made in the first instance to the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0845 120 4550/01322 517817. Alternatively contact Social Services or the police.
- Where the concern is about a child the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should contact Children's Social Services. Where the concern is regarding an adult in need of protection, contact Adult Social Services or take advice from CCPAS as above.

The Children's Triage Service is a single point of contact for requests for support or protection for vulnerable children and young people in the borough. Most requests should be made online, but if emergency protection is needed call 0203 373 4600.

The local Adult Social Services office telephone number (office hours) is 020 8430 2000 (option 2). The out of hours emergency number is 020 33730440 (Newham Safeguarding Team).

- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator **may** need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern (for example the Chair of Trustees to log that a safeguarding concern is being dealt with, Insurance company to log that there is a possibility of a serious incident concerning safeguarding or a Designated Officer (formerly LADO) if allegations have been made about a person who has a role with under 18's.)
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Deputy should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from CCPAS.
- The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy in their role and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need-to-know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from CCPAS, although the Leadership hope that members of the place of worship / organisation will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrate its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection everyone; children and adults who may be at risk of harm or abuse.

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

Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:

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 Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact Children's Social Services (or CCPAS) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Services direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by CCPAS (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

Allegations of sexual abuse

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by CCPAS if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Services/Police. CCPAS will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern that an adult is in need of protection:

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

If there is concern about any of the above, Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

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

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with children/young people

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will need to liaise with Children's Social Services in regards to the suspension of the worker, also making a referral to a designated officer formerly called a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 no longer refers to them as LADOs only 'designated officers. However, the function remains the same which is to handle all allegations against adults who work with children and young people whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.

In addition to this, whether or not there are such mechanisms in operation, consideration should be given to whether a referral should be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service which manages the list of those people deemed unsuitable for working with children or adults. Where you are liaising with a designated officer discuss with them about the need to refer to the DBS. If a designated officer is not involved, you need to contact the DBS if the situation is that the nature of concern leads you to end the employment of the worker or volunteer or would have made this decision in circumstances where they have left voluntarily.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with adults with care and support needs.

The Care Act places the duty upon **Adult Services** to investigate situations of harm to adults with care and support needs. This may result in a range of options including action against the person or organisation causing the harm, increasing the support for

the carers or no further action if the 'victim' chooses for no further action and they have the capacity to communicate their decision. However, this is a decision for Adult Services to decide not Ascension Community Trust.

3. PREVENTION

Safer recruitment

The Leadership will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with government guidance on safe recruitment. This includes ensuring that:

- There is a written job description / person specification for the post
- Those applying have completed an application form and a self-declaration form
- Those short listed have been interviewed
- Safeguarding has been discussed at interview
- Written references have been obtained, and followed up where appropriate
- A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check has been completed where necessary (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information)
- Qualifications where relevant have been verified
- A suitable training programme is provided for the successful applicant
- The applicant has completed a probationary period
- The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.

Management of Workers – Codes of Conduct

As a Leadership we are committed to supporting all workers and ensuring they receive support and supervision. All workers have been issued with a code of conduct for the organisation.

4. PASTORAL CARE

Supporting those affected by abuse

The Leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with Ascension Community Trust. We will identify where individuals have been abused and signpost and support them in the access of appropriate services for their needs.

Working with offenders

When someone attending the Ascension Community Trust is known to have abused children or is known to be a risk to adults the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of everyone who may be at risk of harm, will set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

If someone who poses a risk to children, young people or adults wants to join in with activities or become part of an organisation, it is important the leadership manage the risk appropriately by creating clear policies and a code of behaviour the individual must follow. This will help protect everyone and lessen the possibility of the person being wrongly suspected of abuse in the future.

5. PRACTICE GUIDELINES

As an organisation working with children, young people and adults with care and support needs we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false or unfounded accusation.

The Ascension Community Trust Code of Conduct should be followed by all staff and volunteers. Each new staff and volunteer will be given a copy of this when they join the organisation.

Ascension Community Trust Guidelines for Safeguarding:

Safeguarding covers all ACT Projects, this includes:

- Garden Community Café (Space for a range of projects supporting the local community).
- Ascension Football Academy (Football training for under 18s)
- Young Adventurers (five day a week after school club)
- Mainstream Summer Schemes (activities for primary children and youth volunteering)
- Advice Service (for adults addressing benefits, housing etc)
- Gardening Club (a weekly gardening club for adults with complex needs)
- Foodbank (Proving food parcels to those in need)
- The Youth Café (A youth drop in based at the café)
- Family Events (Fun Days, Craft afternoons)

Code of Conduct

- Be responsible for the effective and ethical use of information and resources to which they have access because of their role with ACT.
- Ensure the safety, health and welfare of all ACT employees, volunteers, contractors, and service users.
- Ensure that their personal and professional conduct is of the highest standards and in keeping with ACT's beliefs, values and aims.
- Perform their duties and conduct their private lives in a manner that avoids or appropriately manages possible conflicts of interest with ACT.
- Avoid involvement in any criminal activities, activities that contravene human rights, or those that compromise ACT's work.
- Refrain from any form of harassment, discrimination, physical or verbal abuse, intimidation, or exploitation, both within and outside of ACT.
- The welfare of children and vulnerable adults must be your priority and considered in all decision making.

Working with Children

- Consent from a parent/guardian must be gained for children to attend a project run by Ascension Community Trust. If a child turns up on their own to

a project without a consent form, they are allowed to attend for the initial session, a consent form must be filled in prior to their second session.

- Children and vulnerable adults have many rights which must be adhered to. Wherever possible all staff and volunteers applying to work with Children must complete approved safeguarding training before they start, but within 3 months if this is not possible. This must be repeated every 3 years. Any consideration relating to staff ratios needs to take into account the age of the children involved (the lower the age the greater the need for supervision), disability, degree of risk involved in the activity.
- Adults are not to be left on their own in a closed room with a group of children. Two adults must always be present in the room or open space.
- Where staff witness an injury, this must be reported to the parents at the first opportunity. An injury record sheet should be filled in and passed to the relevant manager.

Working with Vulnerable Adults

- Vulnerable adults refer to many individuals, including those that are temporarily vulnerable (for example people with injuries or pregnant women). At Ascension Community Trust we regularly work with vulnerable adults that include those with learning difficulties, mental health issues and the elderly.
- No volunteers are to be responsible for financial management, washing, feeding or other personal care of vulnerable adults attending our projects.
- In most circumstances no personal care will be given by staff, for exceptions see below.
- In case of an emergency requiring personal care, for example a fall in the toilet, a staff member who has a valid adults DBS check will be responsible for dealing with the situation.
- Where possible staff and volunteers should only use work phones to contact vulnerable adults. If any contact is to be made outside of the Ascension Community Trust projects, prior consent must be given from a manager who will confirm that the adult is happy with the contact.

Photos

- Photo Consent must be gained before any photos are taken of children or adults attending the projects.
- Photos must not be kept on personal phones or computer. They must only be taken by appointed staff or volunteers, if you are unsure contact the CEO. Photos must only be stored on work devices or upshot monitoring software.
- Photos must only be taken by designated staff members who have clear knowledge of the children that have consent for photos.

Contact with Children (All under 18s)

- Wherever possible contact should be made with the parents directly, not children involved in the project.
- Telephone contact with children should only be made using work mobiles or landlines and not personal mobiles, after consent has been given by the parent. A manager must have access to the work mobile to ensure that safe and appropriate contact is made.
- Staff and volunteers are not to contact children using their own personal social media accounts. If required, the Ascension Community Trust has twitter and Facebook accounts that can be used for contact and are monitored by a number of staff/volunteers.

Activities where parents and children are present

- When children and their parents are both invited to projects it is the responsibility of the parent to care for their child. Staff and volunteers can support but are not to take responsibility for the child. If the child is seen to be misbehaving the parent will be contacted and asked to discipline the child.
- At projects where parents are staff or volunteers, we will aim to keep their activities separate. When children must work alongside their parents, the parent must follow the discipline procedures according to our policy.

Mobile Phones and Devices

- **Staff/Volunteers use of mobile phones:** Personal mobile phones belonging to members of staff are kept in their bags during working hours. If a staff/volunteer needs to make an urgent personal call, they can use a work phone or make a personal call from their mobile away from any activities with children. If a member of staff has a family emergency or similar and needs to keep their mobile phone to hand, prior permission must be sought from their manager. Under no circumstances may staff/volunteers use their personal mobile phones to take photographs of any users at our projects.
- **Children's use of mobile phones:** Whilst we understand that some children have mobile phones, we actively discourage them from using their phones within the club. The club does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones brought to the club by the children.
- **Visitors' use of mobile phones:** Parents and all other visitors must not use their mobile phone – or any other device - to take photographs within the club. This includes taking photographs of their own children. If they want to have a photograph of their child involved in an activity or at play, parents/carers request will be noted, and a member of staff will endeavour to have some taken (this will only be possible once permission is given in writing). This is usually done when parents/carers fill in a registration form.
- **Parental control settings** must be enforced on all devices accessible to the public and users of projects.
- **Computer and Tablets:** Children shouldn't be left on their own when using devices, but in a room with supervision at all times. Their time on devices should be limited in consideration to their age.

Smoking (and Vaping)

- No smoking or vaping will be allowed in areas where children are present. There must be opportunities for fresh outside air for all users of our projects.

Uniform

- All staff and volunteers must wear appropriate clothing whilst at ACT projects. This includes not wearing clothes that show cleavage, midriff or underwear.
- When working with children for your own safety excessive jewellery should not be worn that can get caught or pulled by children. Footwear should be comfortable and flat to safely play with children.
- Clothing considerations must be made for religious and cultural backgrounds of users, staff, and volunteers.

Physical Contact

- Physical contact with vulnerable adults or children must be kept to a minimum. It is acceptable in the following situations.
- **If a child initiates physical contact**, including a hug, this is acceptable, do not initiate this type of physical contact yourself.
- **Giving guidance to children**, such as how to hold a paintbrush.
- Many **sports**, by their nature, require a degree of physical contact between adults and children/young people.
- **Providing emotional support**, where possible stand to the side of the child/vulnerable adult and place an arm around them.
- **Giving physical care** if you are a trained and DBS checked staff member who has been given consent to act in this way in case of an emergency.
- **Providing first aid**, whenever needed.

Behaviour Management

- Discipline may be required on occasions due to the inappropriate behaviour of children/young people. When discipline is used it should be done so appropriately and with the clear intention of teaching or reinforcing appropriate behaviour. It must not be used impulsively, to gain power, or to embarrass or humiliate a child/young person. Corporal punishment is illegal and will never be used at any Ascension Community Trust project.
- Physical intervention will be used as a last resort and only when there is a child in clear danger. Physical intervention can only be enforced by trained staff/volunteers. Where possible staff/volunteers should aim for side-by-side contact with the child, aim to keep their own back as straight as possible, hold children where there is least likelihood of causing damage, avoid lifting the child and ensure there is no restriction to the child's ability to breathe. All incidences requiring physical intervention must be recorded and passed onto the safeguarding co-ordinator.
- In most circumstances you are to follow this discipline system, for exceptions see below:

WARNING 1: Child is taken aside, and it is clearly explained what they did wrong.

WARNING 2: Child is asked to sit out of activity for an appropriate amount of time.

WARNING 3: Contact to be made with parents and decision made as to whether to remove them from the project temporarily/permanently.

- The child's parent/police are to be contacted at first instance and the child removed from all other children if there is a serious concern for the safety of a child, staff, or volunteer, racist, explicit or sexually inappropriate behaviour is shown or there are any incidences regarding alcohol or illegal substances.

Working in Partnership

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

We therefore have clear guidelines in regards to our expectations of those with whom we work in partnership, whether in the UK or not. We will discuss with all partners our safeguarding expectations and have a partnership agreement for safeguarding. It is also our expectation that any organisation using our premises, as part of the letting agreement will have their own policy that meets CCPAS' safeguarding standards.

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

APPENDIX 1

Brief Summary of Safeguarding Policy

The Board of Trustees [hereafter referred to as Leadership] recognises the importance of its work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

This organisation is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial, and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults who have care and support needs and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following any denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/s in their work and in any action, they may need to take in order to protect children / adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.
- Supporting parents and families
- Nurturing, protecting, and safeguarding of children and young people
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring, and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

We recognise:

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

- Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to our agency's headquarters.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult with care and support needs, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding

co-ordinators for Ascension Community Trust.

Henry Gaspard - Safeguarding Coordinator
Phone No: 020 7511 1232 or 0778319059

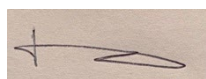
Leanne Malpass Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator
Phone No. 020 7511 1232

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from the office at Ascension Community Trust, Ascension Church Centre, Baxter Road, E16 3HJ.

Policy Adopted on: 27/03/24

Review Date: 26/03/25

Signed By:



Position: Chair of Trustees

Date: 27/02/2024

APPENDIX 2

Statutory Definitions of Abuse (Children)

Abuse and neglect are forms 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 a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. Child protection legislation throughout the UK is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each nation within the UK has incorporated the convention within its legislation and guidance.

The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)'.

What is abuse and neglect?

Abuse and neglect are forms 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 a stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse 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

Emotional abuse is 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 children 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 the 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 cyberbullying), 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

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

Neglect is 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 caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

APPENDIX 3

Definitions of Adult abuse

The following information relates to the Safeguarding of Adults as defined in the Care Act 2014, Chapter 14. Safeguarding, this replaces the previous guidelines produced in 'No Secrets' (Department of Health 2000)

The legislation is relevant across England and Wales but on occasions applies only to local authorities in England.

The Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has need for 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.

Organisations should always promote the adult's wellbeing in their safeguarding arrangements. People have complex lives and being safe is only one of the things they want for themselves. Professionals should work with the adult to establish what being safe means to them and how that can be best achieved. Professional and other staff should not be advocating 'safety' measures that do not take account of individual well-being, as defined in Section 1 of the Care Act. This section considers the different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

- **Physical abuse** – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- **Domestic violence** – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so, called 'honour' based violence.
- **Sexual abuse** – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- **Psychological abuse** – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling,

intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

- **Financial or material abuse** – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance, or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.
- **Modern slavery** – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means, they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive, and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- **Discriminatory abuse** – including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- **Organisational abuse** – including neglect and poor care practice within an Institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes, and practices within an organisation.
- **Neglect and acts of omission** – including ignoring medical, emotional, or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care, and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Self-neglect** – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more.

APPENDIX 4

Signs of Possible Abuse in Adults

Physical abuse

- History of unexplained falls, fractures, bruises, burns, minor injuries.
- Signs of under or overuse of medication and/or medical problems left unattended.

Domestic violence

- Unexplained injuries or 'excuses' for marks or scars
- Controlling and/or threatening relationship including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence and Female Genital Mutilation.
- Age range extended to 16yrs.

Sexual abuse

- Pregnancy in a woman who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse
- Unexplained change in behaviour or sexually explicit behaviour
- Torn, stained or bloody underwear and/or unusual difficulty in walking or sitting
- Infections or sexually transmitted diseases
- Full or partial disclosures or hints of sexual abuse
- Self harming

Psychological abuse

- Alteration in psychological state e.g. withdrawn, agitated, anxious, tearful
- Intimidated or subdued in the presence of a carer
- Fearful, flinching or frightened of making choices or expressing wishes
- Unexplained paranoia

Financial or material abuse

- Disparity between assets and living conditions
- Unexplained withdrawals from accounts or disappearance of financial documents
- Sudden inability to pay bills
- Carers or professionals fail to account for expenses incurred on a person's behalf
- Recent changes of deeds or title to property

Modern slavery

- Physical appearance; unkempt, inappropriate clothing, malnourished
- Movement monitored, rarely alone, travel early or late at night to facilitate working hours.
- Few personal possessions or ID documents.
- Fear of seeking help or trusting people.

Discriminatory abuse

- Inappropriate remarks, comments, or lack of respect
- Poor quality or avoidance care

Organisational abuse

- No confidence in complaints procedures for staff or service users.
- Neglectful or poor professional practice.

Neglect and acts of omission

- Deteriorating despite apparent care
- Poor home conditions, clothing or care and support.
- Lack of medication or medical intervention

Self-neglect

- Hoarding inside or outside a property
- Neglecting personal hygiene or medical needs

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more.