



LIVING WATERS CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2024



Safeguarding Policy 05 2022, Update 05 2024

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Safeguarding Official Definition:

“Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s and a child’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect”

1 LIVING WATERS CHURCH CONTACTS

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|--|--|
| Name of Place of Worship / Organisation: | Living Waters Church |
| Address: | 358 Torquay Road, Paignton TQ3 2DQ |
| Tel No: | 01803 552538 |
| Email address: | admin@lwchurch.org.uk |
| Charity Number: | 1050312 |
| Denomination/Membership | Assemblies of God (GB) |
| Insurance Company: | Employers Liability Insurance Number 01159217250 Kingdom Bank Ansvar |
| Name of Senior Leaders: | Pastor Tony Williams Pastor Su Williams |
| Contact Details: | SW M 07444 254707 |
| DSO – Designated Safeguarding Officer: | Pastor Su Williams SW M 07444 254707 |
| Deputy DSO – Designated Safeguarding Officer: | Matt Casling M 07803 631538 |
| Name of Safeguarding Adviser: | Antje Cooley M 07837 051216 |

2 LWC SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. As the Leadership, we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults with additional care and support needs. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect.
2. Living Waters Church believes that every individual can and should have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and has the opportunity to be part of a local, vibrant church.
3. We seek to be a church that is relevant to people of all ages and is aware that it can be achieved through the building and sustaining of strong relationships among us - based on love, openness and trust.
4. Our vibrant congregation is made up of people from different backgrounds, ages and cultures. We are united by a common goal to worship Jesus, live out our Christian faith and be a positive and giving influence.
5. The leadership of Living Waters Church recognizes the importance of its ministry/work with children and young people and adults with care and support needs, and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care. LWC is committed to safeguarding of everyone.
6. 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.”
7. 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.
8. The policy and appendices are based on the ten ‘Safe and Secure’ safeguarding standards published by ThirtyOne:Eight (formerly the Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and the Assemblies of God Safeguarding Standards.

3 LWC COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING THE LEADERSHIP UNDERTAKES TO:

- A. endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
- B. provide on-going safeguarding training for all its workers and no less than every three years will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.
- C. ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.
- D. 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 additional care and support needs.
- E. undertakes an annual review of the policy and its implementation.
- F. ensure that a copy of the policy is available upon request for quality assurance purposes.
- G. file a copy of any amendments subsequently published in the same manner.
- H. not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

4 PREVENTION DEFINITIONS

1. UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS ABUSE & NEGLECT

Defining child abuse or abuse against an adult with care and support needs is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm, or by 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 vulnerable adult.

2. In order to safeguard those in our place of worship and organisation we

1. As the Leadership, we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults with additional care and support needs. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect.

3. adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (as listed in Section 1:6 of the LWC Safeguarding Statement) and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 19 which states:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
Article 5, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

5 POLICY STATEMENTS SAFER RECRUITMENT

A. SAFER RECRUITMENT

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.

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.

This training may be provided either by the Safeguarding Coordinator and Safeguarding Adviser or by ThirtyOne:eight via their training programme(s), or another recognised body, organisation or qualified individual.

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.

B. MANAGEMENT OF WORKERS

- a. As a Leadership we are committed to supporting all workers and ensuring they receive support and supervision. All workers shall be issued with a code of conduct towards children, young people and adults with additional care and support needs.
- b. Procedures include 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.
- c. Those short listed have been interviewed, Safeguarding has been discussed at interview.
- d. Written references have been obtained, and followed up where appropriate.
- e. A disclosure and barring checks have been completed where necessary (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information).
- f. Qualifications where relevant have been verified.
- g. A suitable training programme is provided for the successful applicant
- h. The applicant has completed a probationary period
- i. The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.

C. 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 ThirtyOne:Eight's safeguarding standards.

D. GOOD COMMUNICATION

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.

6 RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

The Leadership shall ensure that detailed procedures are implemented which address the following when responding to allegations of abuse:

1. Reporting a Concern
2. Obtaining appropriate professional advice
3. Documented processes shall set out detailed procedures for when there is/are:
4. Concern about a child's welfare
5. Concern about the welfare of an adult with care/support needs
6. Concern about alleged abuse against a person who works with children/young people
7. Allegations of abuse against a person who works with adults with care/support needs

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an alleged suspicion of abuse. Follow procedures as below and see the flow charts:

The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible completing the LWC Safeguarding Incident Report Form (available from the Foyer) to:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Name of Safeguarding Co-Ordinator: | Senior Pastor Su Williams |
| Contact Details: | M 07444 254707 |

This person 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:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Name of Safeguarding Adviser: | Antje Cooley |
| Contact Details: | M 07837 051216 |

If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the Deputy, then the report should be made in the first instance to:

- Living Waters Church Council Trustees
- A 24 hour helpline is available for advice, but where the situation is an emergency, the police should be contacted. ThirtyOne:Eight (formerly CCPAS,) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone: 0303 003 1111.

Where the concern is about a child the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should contact Children's Social Services.

| | |
|--|---|
| The local Children's Social Services office telephone number (office hours) is | csenquiries@torbay.gov.uk 01803 208100 |
| The out of hours emergency number is | 0300 456 4876 |

Where the concern is regarding an adult in need of protection, contact Adult Social Services or take advice from ThirtyOne:Eight

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| The local Adult Social Services office telephone number (office hours) is | 0300 456 4876 |
| The Police Public Protection Unit telephone number is | Telephone: 01392 225555 |

Where required, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should then immediately inform senior personnel within LWC as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Name: | Tony Williams |
| Position: | Senior Pastor |
| Contact Details: | TW 07725 554747 |

- A. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- B. 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.
- C. The Leadership must consider it a duty informing the church's insurers and the charity commission (if a registered charity) of offences committed by staff and volunteers.
- D. If the person against whom an allegation is being made is in a position of trust, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) needs to be contacted within 24 hours. It may also be necessary to inform the DBS if the person is engaged in 'regulated activity'.

- E. 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 ThirtyOne:eight, although the Leadership expect that members of LWC will use the LWC Safeguarding Procedures and LWC Safeguarding Incident Report Form (Appendix 2) 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 directly. This would also apply if the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy were not available. We believe by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrates its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.
- F. 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 who have a legal duty to investigate.

7 ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, NEGLECT OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE - CHILD

- A. 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 seek medical help if needed urgently via phoning 999.
- B. Contact Children's Social Services (or ThirtyOne:eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home. If the issue is urgent, the Police Protection Unit and/or the Out of Hours Children's Services must be contacted without delay.
- C. Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Services.
- D. For lesser concerns, (e.g., poor parenting), encourage parent/carers to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- E. Where the parent/carers 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.
- F. Seek and follow advice given by ThirtyOne:Eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

8 ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- A. 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 ThirtyOne:eight if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Services/Police. ThirtyOne:eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

9 ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE -ADULT

- A. The Care Act 2014 places the duty upon Adult Services to investigate situations of harm to adults with additional 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 the church.
- B. If an adult with additional care and support needs has a physical injury or symptom of sexual abuse the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:
- Discuss any concerns with the individual themselves giving due regard to their autonomy, privacy and rights to lead an independent life. Advice needs to be sought from the statutory agencies if it is felt that their choice might contradict their welfare needs.
- C. If the adult with additional care and support needs is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.
- D. For advice contact the appropriate Adult Social Care Team who have responsibility under Section 47 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and government guidance, 'No Secrets', to investigate allegations of abuse.
- E. The Police Public Protection Unit will also provide advice and will need to be contacted where the concerns are of a serious nature. Alternatively, ThirtyOne:Eight can be contacted for advice.

10 CONCERNS ABOUT ABUSE BY THOSE WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN OR ADULTS

A. 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 or Deputy, 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 the Torbay Council Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Ivan Sullivan.
- Contact the Operations Manager at AOG National Office if the allegations concern a Minister or other Senior Minister responsible for the church in question regardless of status.

The LADO / Local Authority Designated Officer will be contacted within 24 hours as follows:

| | |
|--------|--|
| Name: | Ivan Sullivan |
| Phone: | LADO Torbay Council Ivan Sullivan Telephone 01803 208541 |
| Email: | Link to refer to LADO: www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/professionals/managing-allegations |

B. 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 with additional care and support needs. Where we are liaising with a Designated Officer, we will discuss with them about the need to refer to the DBS. If a Designated Officer is not involved, we will contact the DBS if the situation is that the nature of concern leads us to end the employment of the worker or volunteer or would have made this decision in circumstances where they have left voluntarily.

Note:

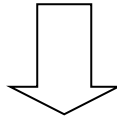
There may also be a requirement under law to make a referral to the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) who hold the lists of people barred from working with children and adults with additional care and support needs – this will require discussion with the Designated Officer.

11 THE ROLE OF LADO

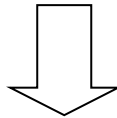
1. The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is set out in the HM Government guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013 and 2015). Chapter 2 Organisational responsibilities lays out the procedures for managing allegations against people who work with children, for example, those in a position of trust, including volunteers.
2. The LADO works within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:
3. behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
4. possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
5. behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children
6. The LADO role applies to paid, unpaid, volunteer, casual, agency and self-employed workers. They capture concerns, allegations or offences emanating from outside of work. The LADO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to the conclusion of the case.
7. They will provide advice, guidance and help to determine whether the allegation sits within the scope of the procedures.

12 FLOWCHART LIVING WATERS CHURCH

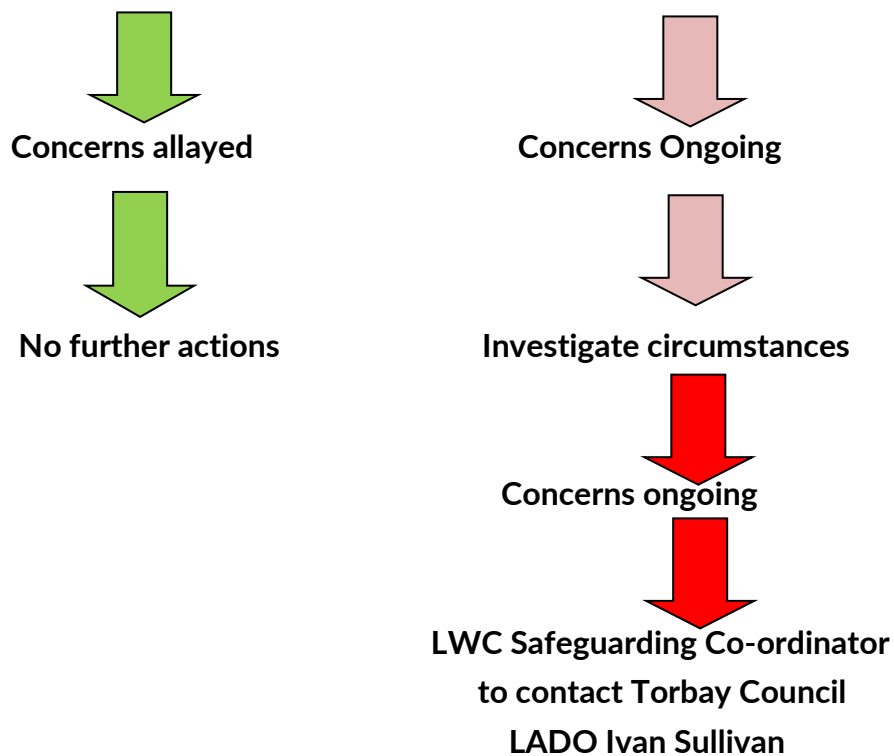
Is there a suspicion or concern about a Child, Youth or Vulnerable Adult?



Report to LWC Safeguarding Co-Ordinator using the LWC Safeguarding Incident Report Form available from the Foyer

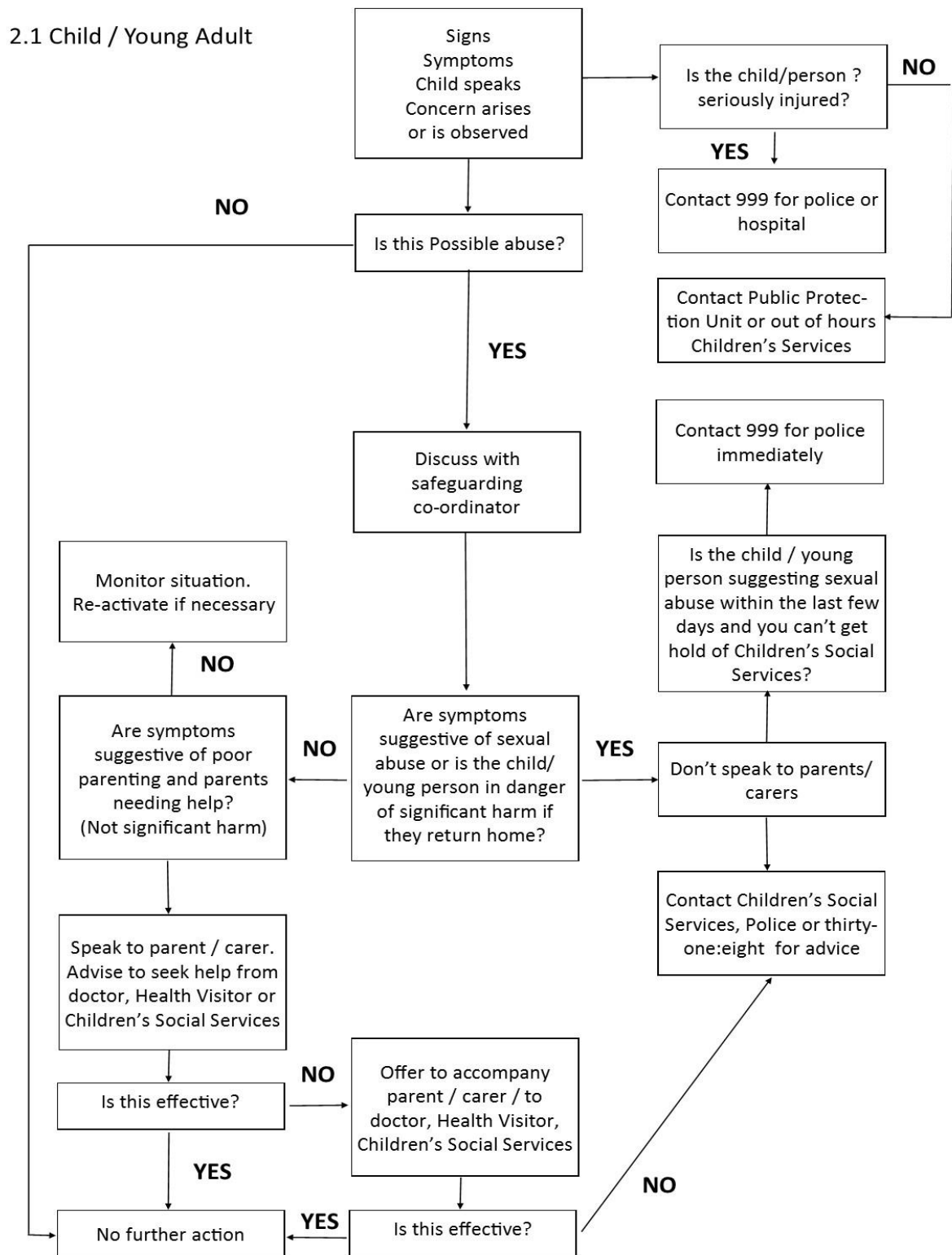


All Factors and Information considered by LWC Safeguarding Co-ordinator



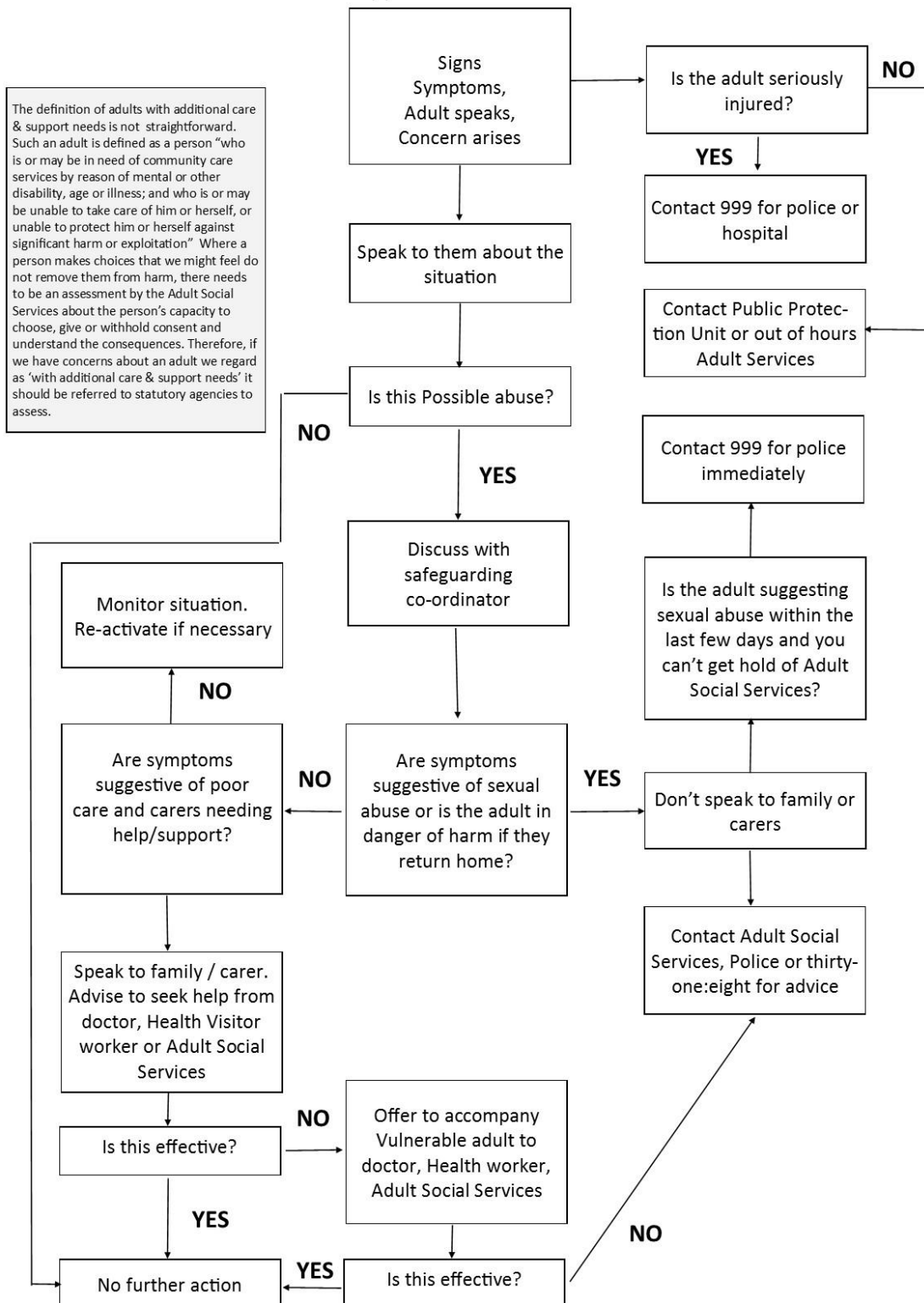
For additional guidance, please see following Flowcharts produced by the Assemblies of God and ThirtyOne:Eight

13 FLOWCHART CHILD /ADULT AoG /ThirtyOne:Eight



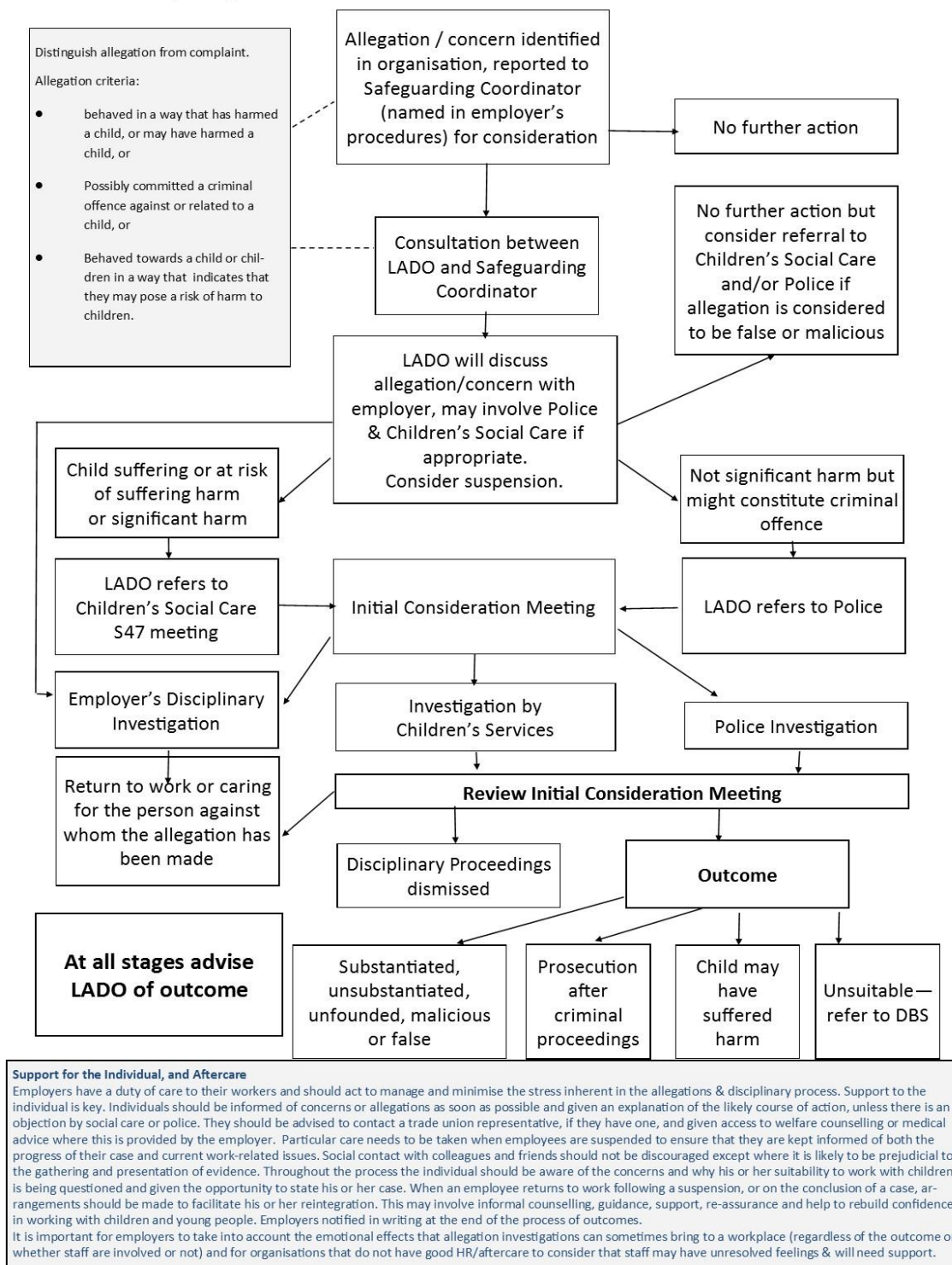
14 FLOWCHART ADULT WITH ADDITIONAL CARE & SUPPORT NEED

2.2 Adult with additional care & support needs



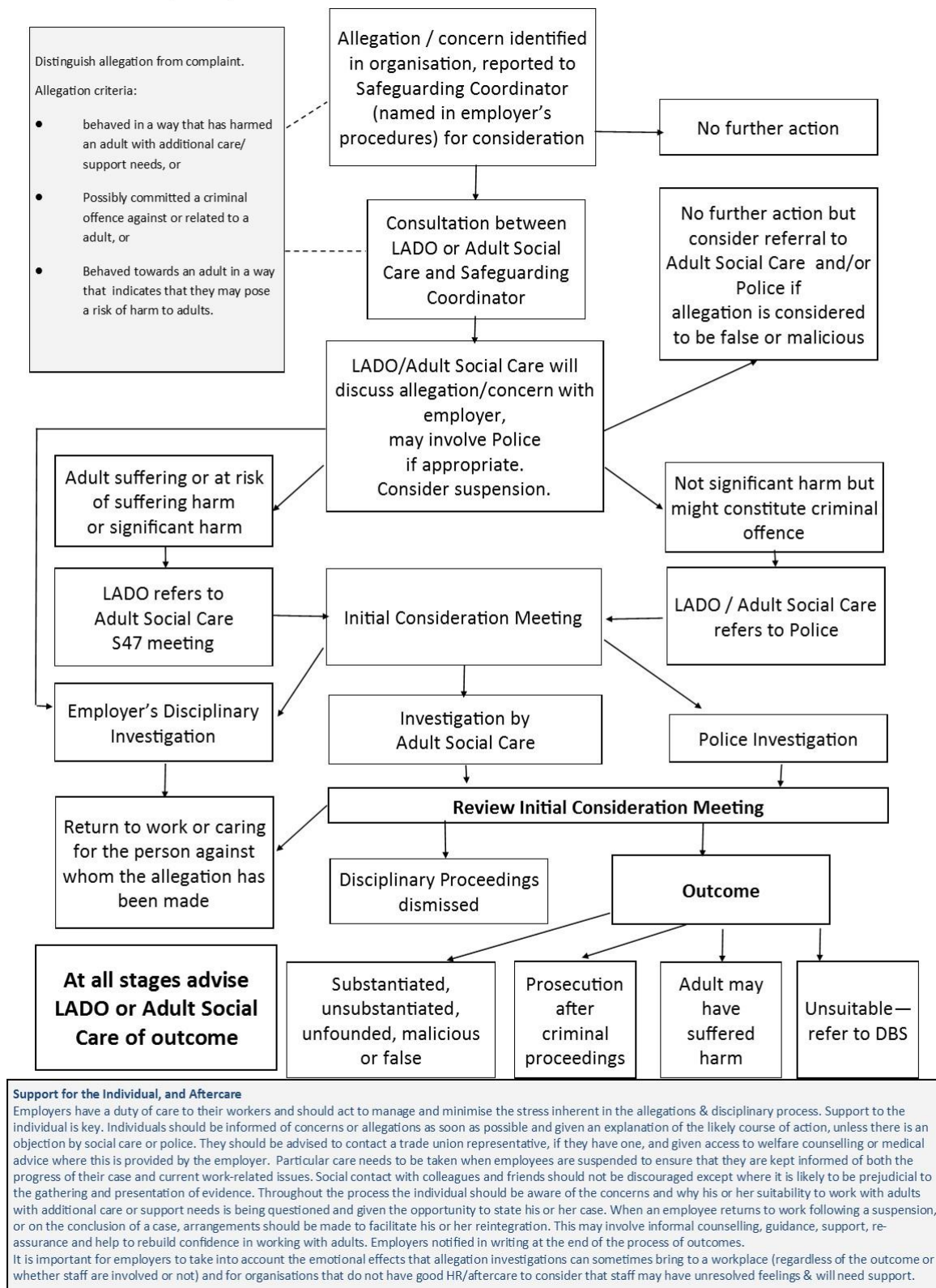
15 FLOWCHART WORKER: CHILD

2.3a Worker (child)



16 FLOWCHART WORKER: ADULT

2.3b Worker (adult)



17 STATUTORY DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE OF CHILDREN

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)'.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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.

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

18 STATUTORY DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE ADULTS

1. Definition of adult with additional care & support needs (“vulnerable”)

The Care Act 2014, which covers England, defines the person who should be subject of a safeguarding enquiry as an adult who:

- has needs 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.

2. Definition of abuse

The following definition of abuse is laid down in ‘No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect adults with additional care and support needs from abuse (Department of Health 2000):

A. ‘Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons. In giving substance to that statement, however, consideration needs to be given to a number of factors:

B. Abuse may 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 he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it’.

C. Physical Abuse

This is the infliction of pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately, or through lack of care.

D. Sexual Abuse

This is the involvement in sexual activities to which the person has not consented or does not truly comprehend and so cannot give informed consent, or where the other party is in a position of trust, power or authority and uses this to override or overcome lack of consent.

E. Psychological or Emotional Abuse

These are acts or behaviour, which cause mental distress or anguish or negates the wishes of the vulnerable adult. It is also behaviour that has a harmful effect on the vulnerable adult’s emotional health and development or any other form of mental cruelty.

F. Financial or Material Abuse

This is the inappropriate use, misappropriation, embezzlement or theft of money, property or possessions

G. Neglect or Act of Omission

This is the repeated deprivation of assistance that the vulnerable adult needs for important activities of daily living, including the failure to intervene in behaviour which is dangerous to the vulnerable adult or to others. A vulnerable person may be suffering from neglect when their general well-being or development is impaired

H. Discriminatory Abuse

This is the inappropriate treatment of a vulnerable adult because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality, disability etc.

Discriminatory abuse exists when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals.

Discriminatory abuse links to all other forms of abuse.

I. Institutional or Organisational Abuse

Institutional or Organisational Abuse includes neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment.

J. Domestic Abuse/Violence

The cross-government (not legal) definition of domestic violence and abuse is: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional;

K. 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.

L. 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.

M. Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a serious crime. It encompasses slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Modern slavery victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example if they are sold to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.

N. A person is trafficked if they are brought to (or moved around) a country by others who threaten, frighten, hurt and force them to do work or other things they don't want to do.

(Taken from government guidance on how to report modern slavery 8 Dec 2016)

O. Self-Neglect

There is no single operational definition of self-neglect. The Department of Health (2016), defines it as, '... a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding'.

- P. Skills for Care provided a framework for research into self-neglect identifying three distinct areas that are characteristic of self -neglect:**
- Q. Lack of self-care - this includes neglect of one's personal hygiene, nutrition and hydration, or health, to an extent that may endanger safety or wellbeing;**
- R. Lack of care of one's environment - this includes situations that may lead to domestic squalor or elevated levels of risk in the domestic environment (e.g., health or fire risks caused by hoarding);**
- S. Refusal of assistance that might alleviate these issues. This might include, for example, refusal of care services in either their home or a care environment or of health assessments or interventions, even if previously agreed, which could potentially improve self-care or care of one's environment.**

19 DEFINITIONS OF SPIRITUAL ABUSE

In recent years the concept of Spiritual Abuse has become one that has gained greater understanding amongst those in the faith community. Spiritual abuse has many similarities to the other categories of abuse and indeed may include the identification of those categories as abuse is often multi-faceted.

- T. Although not recognised as a category of abuse in its own right by the statutory authorities, Spiritual abuse will often co-exist with those accepted forms of abuse (described above). A number of definitions have been given to this type of abuse in an attempt to adequately describe what often amounts to an abuse of trust and power to the detriment of others. Johnson and VanVonderen ('The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse', Bethany House Publishers, 1991) have described it as follows:

"Spiritual abuse is the mistreatment of a person who is in need of help, support or greater spiritual empowerment, with the result of weakening, undermining or decreasing that person's spiritual empowerment"

- U. This view is shared with a similar definition offered by Ken Blue ('Healing Spiritual Abuse', IVP, 1993) as follows:

"Spiritual abuse happens when a leader with spiritual authority uses that authority to coerce, control or exploit a follower, thus causing spiritual wounds"

ThirtyOne:Eight have defined Spiritual Abuse as follows:

"Spiritual abuse is linked with other forms of abuse, and could be defined as an abuse of power, often done in the name of God or religion, which involves manipulating or coercing someone into thinking, saying or doing things without respecting their right to choose for themselves. Some indicators of spiritual abuse might be a leader who is intimidating and imposes his/her will on other people, perhaps threatening dire consequences or the wrath of God if disobeyed. He or she may say that God has revealed certain things to them and so they know what is right. Those under their leadership are fearful to challenge or disagree, believing they will lose the leader's (or more seriously God's) acceptance and approval."

Additional information

In addition to the above, in relation to adults and children, there needs to be an understanding of other forms of harm such as Female Genital Mutilation, Domestic Abuse, Forced marriage and trafficking of adults and children. All these are included in various pieces of legislation and all those concerned with safeguarding need to be aware of the issues.

20 PRAYER MINISTRY GUIDELINES

- A. At LWC we are passionate about meeting with God. During our meetings we will always try to let God lead what is going on and make space for Him to meet with us.
- B. As part of this, the leaders of the meeting may make time for us to wait on the Holy Spirit and pray for groups of people. This is an opportunity for God to work in our lives and for us to be open to Him moving in our lives.
- C. Ministry times will usually begin with an invitation from the service leader for people to wait on God or to respond to a word from God. The most important thing to remember is that this is God's work, not ours.
- D. It is important to remember as we facilitate what the Holy Spirit wants to do in the lives of those we pray for that we should also be mindful of our Safeguarding practices and procedures. Leadership, safeguarding and prayer team members should make themselves aware of this policy and ensure they receive regular guidance and training.
- E. Guidance:
 - When you're praying, remember that you are there to encourage those seeking God and to facilitate what the Holy Spirit is doing.
 - Please only pray for someone who shares your gender. Prayer ministry can bring up all sorts of personal issues, so it is best practice to keep to this rule. Even if you are married, or you are praying for someone you know, please adhere to this guideline to avoid confusion and to set an example to others.
 - As much as possible, please bring someone alongside you to pray and do not leave yourself vulnerable.
 - Ask people how they would like you to pray for them; (Luke 18:40) However, be aware of not turning this into a lengthy conversation, as this is a time for the Holy Spirit to offer counselling. Be sensitive when speaking into the situation or offering a word or image.
 - Guidance on Touch during prayer ministry: The laying on of hands to pray is Biblical; we see Jesus touch a man to heal him of leprosy in Mark 1: 40-45, and He lays hands on the children to bless them in Matthew 19: 13-15. However, not everyone is comfortable with this, so please be sensitive to the situation. Be careful where you place your hands to keep in line with safeguarding requirements and so that it doesn't become a distraction for the person you are praying for. Only touch in a restrained and appropriate manner.
 - You should only lay your hands on shoulders, upper back, forehead or hold the person's hands. Never place your hands in a personal area of the body and never under items of clothing. If the person requesting healing has an issue in a part of their body that is inappropriate for you to touch, then encourage them to place their hands on that spot whilst you lay hands appropriately.

- Be aware of what is happening while you are praying for others; how is the person responding? Be aware that they may shake, cry or fall in the power of the Holy Spirit; if this does occur then make them comfortable and respect their dignity by covering them with a cover/coat so they feel less exposed. It is not always necessary to stay with them for the whole time, but if you do remain with them, ensure that you are visible to others.
 - The person you are praying for may tell you about things that have happened in their life. Try not to appear shocked by any disclosures and do not request further information. Confidentiality is important but **DO NOT** promise to keep anything a secret, especially in regard to claims of abuse (these must be reported to your Safeguarding Coordinator as soon as possible and you should discreetly bring in a member of Leadership to support you during the prayer time)
 - If at any time you feel uncomfortable or out of your depth, please ask for assistance from a member of the prayer team or church leadership. Report any concerns of mental illness, victims of abuse or any incident where a person has been physically hurt to the Safeguarding Coordinator, who will ensure it is dealt with appropriately.
 - Not everyone who attends our church will be familiar with ministry and prayer times and some will feel a bit concerned or anxious when they become aware of God working through His Holy Spirit. We must make people feel safe and comfortable whilst encouraging them to reach out to God. Always be respectful and sensitive, speak healing, peace and release in Jesus' name.
 - Summary - Things you should do:
 - Recognise that you are working under authority from church leadership and be aware of your limits.
 - Be careful where you place your hands. Only touch in a restrained and appropriate manner.
 - Never place your hands in a personal area of the body and never under items of clothing.
 - If people would like ongoing prayer, then refer them to a leader.
 - Be open to correction and guidance from leadership, given in love
 - Report any concerns of mental illness, victims of abuse or any incident where a person has been physically hurt
- F. Things you should NOT do:**
- Do not make appointments to meet people outside of the meeting
 - Never meet anyone alone. Seek advice from leadership
 - Do not promise to keep anything a secret, especially in regard to claims of abuse.

Safeguarding is a priority here

We are committed to creating safer places by following statutory guidelines on good working practice.



Your safeguarding team:

Children’s safeguarding lead(s):
(for anyone under 18 years)

Contact details

Adult’s safeguarding lead(s):
(for anyone 18 years or over)

Contact Details

A copy of our safeguarding policy is available upon request.

In an emergency, or for independent advice call thirtyone:eight on:

0303 003 11 11

With safeguarding support from:



thirtyone:eight
Creating safer places. Together.

Thirtyone:eight is an independent Christian safeguarding charity.
Charity No: 1004490. Scottish Charity No: SC040578. Company No: 2646487

22 APPENDIX 2

LWC SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT REPORT FORM



Living Waters Church

LWC Safeguarding Incident Report Form



1. *A supply of LWC Safeguarding Incident Report Forms is available from the LWC Health & Safety Box in the Foyer, including envelopes.*
2. *Please make a record of the incident on the LWC Safeguarding Incident Report Form and pass the information in a sealed envelope to Senior Pastors Su or Tony Williams on the same day.*
3. *If the Pastors are not available on the same day, please pass the sealed envelope to the LWC Admin Office, marked “confidential” and leave a message on Senior Pastor Su William’s mobile 07444 254707 or Senior Pastor Tony William’s mobile 07725 554747.*

Who is completing this Safeguarding incident report?

First Name

Second Name:

Position held within Living Waters Church:

Contact information (you):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone numbers:

Email:

Are you reporting your own concerns or responding to concerns raised by someone else?

Responding to my own concerns

Responding to concern raised by others

If responding to concerns raised by someone else:

Please provide their information below:

Name:

Position held within Living Waters Church:

Telephone Number:

Email:

Date report completed:

Incident Details – Person 1

Name:

Age:

Date of birth:

Please state gender: Male Female

Please state – Disabilities: Yes No

If answered yes, please list Disability:

Address:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone numbers:

Email address:

Contact information (Carers) if applicable:

Has Carer been notified of this incident? Yes No N/A

If YES, please provide details of what was said/action agreed:

If age below 18 has parent been notified? Yes No

Parent's address

Postcode:

Telephone Numbers:

Email address:

If YES please provide details of what was said/action agreed:

**Incident Details – Person 2 – Please complete if applicable
otherwise leave page blank please**

Name:

Age:

Date of birth:

Please state gender: **Male** **Female**

Please state – Disabilities: **Yes** **No**

If answered yes, please list Disability:

Address:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone numbers:

Email address:

Contact information (Carers) if applicable:

as Carer been notified of this incident? **Yes** **No** **N/A**

If YES please provide details of what was said/action agreed:

If age below 18 has parent been notified? **Yes** **No**

Parent's address

Postcode:

Telephone Numbers:

Email address:

If YES please provide details of what was said/action agreed:

Adult/ child's account of the incident:

Continue on separate sheet if necessary

Include other relevant information, such as description of any injuries.

Action to date:

To be completed by Senior Pastor Su Williams and/or Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Has the incident been reported to any external agencies? Yes No

**If YES please provide further details,
e.g. Torbay Local Authority Designated Officer, Police/ 31:8/ Charity Commission:**

Name:

Contact person:

Telephone numbers:

Email address:

Agreed action or advice given:

Senior Pastor Su Williams /Safeguarding Co-ordinator Signature:

Date:

23 LIVING WATERS CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY APPROVALS

The LWC Safeguarding Policy is signed and dated by the leadership.

Signed by: Name: Tony Williams

Position: Senior Pastor

Date:

Signature:

Signed by: Name: Su Williams

Position: Senior Pastor and Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Date:

Signature:

This policy will be regularly reviewed annually and amendments made as required.