



Along with details of the organisation and a statement of intent and commitment to safeguarding, the policy covers the following sections:

- Section One** - **Details of Turning Point Church**

- Section Two** - **Introduction to our safeguarding policy and procedures**

- Section Three** - **Prevention** - Understanding abuse and neglect; Safer recruitment; Safeguarding training; practice guidelines and the management of workers

- Section Four** - **Partnership Working**

- Section Five** - **Responding to allegations of abuse**

- Section Six** - **Pastoral Care** - Supporting those affected by abuse; managing offenders and those who pose a risk



Appendix

- Appendix I - Leadership safeguarding statement
- Appendix II - Safeguarding poster
- Appendix III - Good Practice Guidelines for Working with Children
- Appendix IV - Types of Adult Abuse Children
- Appendix V - Definitions of abuse Signs and symptoms of possible abuse in children and young people
- Appendix VI - How to respond to a child wishing to disclose abuse
- Appendix VII - Contact numbers
- Appendix VIII - Risk Assessment Documents



Section 1

Details of the place of worship / organisation

Name of Place of Worship / Organisation: **Turning Point Church**

Address: **c/o 2 Roberts Road, Bournemouth, BH7 6LN;
meeting at 27a Morley Road, Bournemouth, BH5 2JJ**

Tel No: **07468 514739**

General Email address: hello@turningpointchurch.co.uk

Senior Leader Name: **Ian Rothwell**

Senior Leader Contact Telephone / Email: **07468514739 -
ian@turningpointchurch.co.uk**

Safeguarding Coordinator Name: **Mike Mallett**

Safeguarding Coordinator Contact Telephone / Email: **07305 128360 -
mike.mallett@turningpointchurch.co.uk**

Charity Number: **1153302**

Company Number: **08409324**

Insurance Company: **Congregation and General**

The following is a brief description of our place of worship / organisation and the type of work / activities we undertake with children and adults who have care and support needs: **Sunday school, youth group, family group, Bible study groups, general Sunday worship service, prayer meeting, social gatherings, Christian public witness.**

Section 2: Introduction

Good governance helps an organisation prevent abuse and means it can respond quickly and with integrity when concerns arise. Central to this, is the Governance Board or Board of Trustees

The governance board is appointed to have independent authority and legal responsibility for how an organisation or charity and have a critical role in decision making and compliance as well as setting the values, standards and behaviours of the organisation.

The standards and behaviours may be referred to as the culture of the organisation or “the way we do things around here”. Culture can be shaped in both negative and positive ways.

“The culture of a charity goes beyond mere compliance with legal and regulatory demands. Charity governance is most effective when it provides assurances not just that legal requirements are met, but that the behaviour of people working for the charity, and those who come into contact with it, is proper and ethical. Culture, alongside good governance, can be pivotal to whether a charity achieves its stated object” (ICSA The Governance Institute, 2017)

Positions of Trust

All adults working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are in a position of trust. All those in positions of trust need to understand the power this can give them over those they care for and the responsibility they have because of this relationship.

It is vital that all workers ensure they do not, even unknowingly, use their position of power and authority inappropriately. They should always maintain professional boundaries and avoid behaviour which could be misinterpreted.

As of April 2022 it is illegal (England and Wales)(Northern Ireland) for those in Positions of Trust in a faith setting to engage in sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old under their care or supervision.

The following Safeguarding Policy and Statement aims, to not only meet the requirements of ensuring a safe environment for those accessing activities in our organisation but to also build an open culture where:

- those who lead do so by example,
- are committed to the safeguarding of all
- those that work or volunteer are safely recruited and trained for their roles.
- there are accountability structures
- with codes of conduct
- the values of the organisation are embedded in its day to day actions and behaviours of its people
- and there is open communication



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.

A model safeguarding statement for display can be found in APPENDIX 1.

The policy and any attached practice guidelines are based on the ten safeguarding standards published by Thirtyone:eight (thirtyoneeight.org/ten-standards)

Section 3

Prevention

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.

To safeguard those in our places of worship and organisations 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:

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:

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



Detailed definitions, and signs and indicators of abuse, as well as how to respond to a disclosure of abuse, are included here in our policy.

APPENDIX 2.

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
- Those short listed have been interviewed
- Safeguarding has been discussed at interview
- Written references have been obtained, and followed up where appropriate
- A self-declaration form and disclosure and barring check (DBS) 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.



Safeguarding training

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.

Practice Guidelines

As an organisation / place of worship 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. We have specific good practice guidelines for every activity we are involved in and these are attached or in the appendices. For some activities you will need specific forms, e.g. consent forms, risk assessments etc. The relevant forms can be found in appendices.

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 towards children, young people and adults with care and support needs, and will be given clear expectations about what is expected of them both within their job role and out. They will also receive further training as necessary.

Section 4:

Partnership working

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 with 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.

We believe 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.

Section 5

Responding to allegations of abuse

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

- Documenting a concern
- The worker or volunteer should make a report of the concern in the following way:
- The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to:

Name: Mike Mallett

Tel: 07305 128360

Email: mike.mallett@turningpointchurch.co.uk

The above 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: Ian Rothwell (hereafter the "Deputy")

Tel: 07468 514739

Email: ian@turningpointchurch.co.uk

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



thirtyone:eight PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ.

Tel: 0303 003 1111. Option 2

Alternatively contact Social Services or the police.

- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator should contact the appropriate agency or they may first ring the thirtyone:eight helpline for advice. They should then contact social services in the area the child or adult lives.

Name of local authority: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Children's Social Services

Tel: 01202 123334

Out of hours Tel: 01202 738526

Adult Social Services

Tel: 01202 123 654

Out of hours Tel: 0300 123 9895

Police Protection Team Tel: 01202 22 22 22

- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator may need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern
 - Chair or trustee responsible for safeguarding who may need to liaise with the insurance company or the charity commission to report a serious incident.

- Designated officer or LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) if the allegation concerns a worker or volunteer working with someone under 18.
- 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 Thirtyone:eight.
- 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 Thirtyone:eight, 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 of all those who are vulnerable.

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.

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 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.
- 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 Thirtyone:eight (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 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.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern that an adult needs 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 Thirtyone:eight 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.

If there is a concern regarding spiritual abuse, Safeguarding Co-ordinator will:

- Identify support services for the victim i.e., counselling or other pastoral support
- Contact Thirtyone:eight and in discussion with them will consider appropriate action with regards to the scale of the concern.

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:

- Liaise with Children's Social Services regarding the suspension of the worker

- Make a referral to a designated officer formerly called a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) whose function is to handle all allegations against adults who work with children and young people whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- Make a referral to Disclosure and Barring Service for consideration of the person being placed on the barred list for working with children or adults with additional care and support needs. This decision should be informed by the LADO if they are involved.

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

The safeguarding co-ordinator will:

- Liaise with Adult Social Services in regards the suspension of the worker
- Make a referral to the DBS following the advice of Adult Social Services

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 the church.

Section 6

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 or are part of the place of worship/organisation.

Working with offenders and those who may pose a risk

When someone attending the place of worship / organisation is known to have abused children, is under investigation, or is known to be a risk to adults with care and support needs; the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and adults with care and support needs, set boundaries for that person, which they will be expected to keep. These boundaries will be based on a risk assessment and through consultation with appropriate parties.



Adoption of the policy

This policy was agreed by the leadership and will be reviewed annually on:

Signed by:

Position:

Signed by:

Position

Date:

APPENDIX I:

Safeguarding statement

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

The following statement was agreed by the leadership of Turning Point Church on: 30th January 2024

- Turning Point Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.

We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent harm or Abuse to children and adults with care and support needs in all their recognised forms.

- We recognise that the personal dignity and rights of adults and children and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all people should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of Turning Point Church
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- We believe every child and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that all those we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of all relevant legislation including, but not limited to; Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and referring concerns about adults with care and support needs to the local authority under the Care Act 2014. *(Please amend this list for appropriate legislation in N. Ireland and Scotland)*
- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by Turning Point Church
- Supporting all in Turning Point Church affected by abuse.

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about

a child. Adult Social Care 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.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for Turning Point Church are

Ian Rothwell - Safeguarding Co-Ordinator

Mike Mallett - Deputy Safeguarding Co-Ordinator

A copy of Turning Points policy can be seen at www.turningpointchurch.co.uk/policies

Signed on Behalf of the Elders and Trustee's

Ian Rothwell

Signed

Date 30/01/2024

Appendix 2 Safeguarding Poster (CPAS)



Appendix 3 Good Practice Guidelines for Working with Children

PHYSICAL CONTACT, TOUCH, INTERVENTION/RESTRAINT, COMFORTING A DISTRESSED CHILD/YOUNG PERSON

A no touch approach for adults who work with children/young people is often impractical. Every child/young person is different and every situation is unique therefore adult leaders should maintain self-awareness of the dynamic of each situation and judge what is appropriate based on the needs of the individual child/young person. Any such contact will need to be age and gender appropriate and of limited duration. Where a child/young person seeks out or initiates physical contact with an adult leader, the situation should be handled with sensitivity and must never be exploited. Physical contact should never be secretive or for the gratification of the adult.

For example, with nappy changing and toileting for young children, parents or guardians should always be asked to change nappies. Children should be taken in groups for toilet trips and privacy maintained at all times. If help is needed with toileting, it should always be at the request of the child.

Physical intervention should, where possible be avoided. However there are occasions when the use of physical intervention is appropriate in order to control or prevent a potentially dangerous or harmful situation. The scale of any such intervention must be proportionate to the behaviour and the nature of the harm they may cause. The minimum necessary force should be used.

BULLYING AND SPIRITUAL ABUSE

Bullying is any behaviour that is deliberately intended to hurt, threaten or frighten another person or group of people. It may include physical attacks, swearing and insulting comments, or deliberately leaving someone out of things. There is currently an increase in cyber bullying or bullying using mobile technology.

Bullying of any kind is not acceptable, whether it is aimed at children, young people or adults. For further help, information, resources or advice see- www.childline.org.uk/extra/bullyingindex.asp www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk Spiritual abuse is another form of bullying and is also not acceptable as it can seriously affect the development of children/young.

YOUTH WORK AND THE INTERNET

When the youth/children's group uses the internet as part of their work, there should be a policy and clear guidelines on how it is to be used and there should always be adult supervision. The Codes of Practice have clear guidelines on the use of texting or social media. **No youth helper has any reason to contact under 18s outside of the planned**

meetings. The Leadership team may need to do so, but should abide by the guidance given in the Leaders' Code of Conduct and only with the knowledge and permission of parents.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Ensure all paid workers and adult volunteers have followed/completed the safe recruitment procedures and have obtained a clear enhanced DBS disclosure before being allowed to supervise young people.

Ensure all who work with children/young people know what to do in the case of suspected or alleged abuse. Respect confidentiality but never promise to keep secrets especially if a young person is at harm or risk of being harmed.

All who work with children/young people are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct, which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions. All who work with children/young people should work and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way and should continually monitor and review their practice.

LEADERS, VOLUNTEERS AND HELPERS

Much of the youth and children's work that happens in the church will be run by a committed group of volunteers therefore we must ensure that:

- Inexperienced leaders/workers/volunteers and young volunteers will benefit from clear guidance and supervision.
- All who work with children/young people need to think and act carefully to avoid situations, which could lead to difficulties, embarrassing situations, accusations or temptations.
- All who work with children/young people should be encouraged to participate in regular training.
- Young volunteers (under the age of 18) should never be left on their own to run a group.

SAFE RATIOS AND GENDER REPRESENTATION

There should always be a minimum of two adult leaders at every session, ideally one male and one female. However it is recognised that this is not always possible. A helpful reference can be found at NSPCC recommended ratios -

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/researchresources/briefings/recommended-adult-child-ratios-working-with-children/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION, PERMISSIONS AND CONSENT

Up to date relevant information (including any additional or medical needs or allergies), and obtaining consent is a vital part of safeguarding children and young people.

A register of up-to-date information and contact details must be kept of the children/young people you work with. It is also recommended that up-to-date information and contact details of the staff is also kept. All must be stored safely.

It is good practice to keep an incident/accident book where incidents or accident can be recorded for future reference if required.

For any activities away from the normal meeting place; ensure that parents/guardians know where the group is going, and that they have signed and returned the relevant consent form. Also that a risk assessment should be completed and any advice followed.

Consent will also need to be obtained if leaders are going to take photographs or videos of children/young people, especially if they are for public viewing. **These images should be sent to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator as soon as possible and deleted from any private digital storage device**

Appendix 4 Types of Adult Abuse

Physical abuse – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions

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 to which the adult has not consented or was pressurised 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, financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

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.

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 or in relation to care provided in a person'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.

Domestic Violence – Incidents or patterns of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexuality. This can include psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, so called 'honour' based violence.

Self-Neglect – This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviours such as hoarding.

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. Incidents may be a one-off or multiple and affect one person or more. *(Based on guidance in The Care Act 2014)*

Appendix 5 Children - Definitions of abuse

The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)'.

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 cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse - 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 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.

Appendix 6 Signs and symptoms of possible abuse in children and young people

The following signs could be indicators that abuse has taken place but should be considered in context of the child's whole life.

***These indicate the possibility that a child or young person is self-harming. Approximately 20,000 are treated in accident and emergency departments in the UK each year.**

Physical

- Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries that occur in places not normally exposed to falls, rough games, etc
- Injuries that have not received medical attention
- Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming
- Repeated urinary infections or unexplained tummy pains
- Bruises on babies, bites, burns, fractures etc which do not have an accidental explanation*
- Cuts/scratches/substance abuse*

Sexual

- Any allegations made concerning sexual abuse
- Excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour
- Age-inappropriate sexual activity through words, play or drawing
- Child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams or nightmares, sometimes with overt or veiled sexual connotations
- Eating disorders - anorexia, bulimia*

Emotional

- Changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clinging.
- Depression, aggression, extreme anxiety
- Nervousness, frozen watchfulness
- Obsessions or phobias
- Sudden under-achievement or lack of concentration
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Persistent tiredness
- Running away/stealing/lying

Neglect

- Under nourishment, failure to grow, constant hunger, stealing or gorging food
- Untreated illnesses, inadequate care, etc

Appendix 7 How to respond to a child wishing to disclose abuse

Effective Listening

- Ensure the physical environment is welcoming, giving opportunity for the child or vulnerable adult to talk in private but making sure others are aware the conversation is taking place.
- It is especially important to allow time and space for the person to talk.
- Above everything else listen without interrupting.
- Be attentive and look at them whilst they are speaking.
- Show acceptance of what they say (however unlikely the story may sound) by reflecting back words or short phrases they have used.
- Try to remain calm, even if on the inside you are feeling something different.
- Be honest and don't make promises you can't keep regarding confidentiality.
- If they decide not to tell you after all, accept their decision but let them know that you are always ready to listen.
- Use language that is age appropriate and, for those with disabilities, ensure there is someone available who understands sign language, Braille etc.
- Tell them you will let somebody know – don't promise confidentiality
- Even when the person has broken a rule, they are not to blame for the abuse.
- Be aware they may have been threatened or bribed
- As soon as possible write down what has been shared.

Helpful responses

- You have done the right thing in telling.
- That must have been hard. • I am glad you have told me.
- It's not your fault.
- I will try to help you.

Don't say

- Why didn't you tell anyone before?
- I can't believe it!
- Are you sure this is true?
- Why? How? When? Who? Where?
- I am shocked, don't tell anyone else

Concluding:

Reassure, show acceptance, let the person know what you are going to do next and you will let them know what happens. Contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator Ian Rothwell
Make notes (preferably within one hour) of: times, dates, what they said, what you said, what was said in reply.

Appendix 8 Contact numbers In case of concern

Telephone numbers

If someone's life or property is at risk, always call **999**

Children's Social Services: Office hours **01202 123 334**
Out of hours (emergency) **01202 738 256**
or use **01202 123 334** if no response

Adult Social Services Office hours **01202 123654**
Out of hours (emergency) **0300 123 9895**

Dorset Police Protection Team **01202 222 222** or call **101**

Ian Rothwell - Pastor **07468 514 739**



Appendix 9: Risk Assessment Documents for Safeguarding

See separate file

Pastoral Care

Discipleship

Sunday Services

Sunday General

Monday General

Thursday General

Ad Hoc events

Beloved