



St John's Church, Neville's Cross, Durham,

A Policy to Protect Vulnerable Adults

This policy was adopted by St. John's Church, Neville's Cross, Durham at the PCC Meeting held on 10th March 2016. It is based on the guidelines of the Church of England as set out in the document 'Promoting a Safe Church' 2009 and SG1 Training at Durham Cathedral.

The Principles of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

At St John's Church, Neville's Cross, we recognise that all of us can be vulnerable at different levels and at different times in our lives. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful and informed pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister. Furthermore, we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being within the life of the church.

We also recognise the specific needs of those who, **up to the age of 25** are acknowledged as more vulnerable, such as those with a specific learning difficulty or Looked After Children who have the right to access support within Children's Social Services **up to the age of 21** (Education Act 2004).

1 Definition of a Vulnerable Adult

For the purposes of this document we define a vulnerable adult in the following terms:

'A vulnerable adult is any person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself **or** who is unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. This may be because he or she has a mental health problem, a disability, a sensory impairment, is old and frail, or has some form of illness. Because of his or her vulnerability, the individual may be in receipt of a care service in his or her own home, in the community or be resident in a residential care home, nursing home or other institutional setting.' (Ref 1)

Furthermore, we recognise the needs of adults within our community who live independently and who experience vulnerability at a specific time in their lives through

- ✚ Bereavement (death or separation)
- ✚ Being unemployed, in hospital, in prison or homeless
- ✚ Being a stranger, refugee or asylum seeker
- ✚ Victim of an assault or other criminal act such as domestic abuse or sexual exploitation
- ✚ Abuse of a relationship of trust
- ✚ Victim of harassment or bullying including cyberbullying
- ✚ A survivor of past abuse
- ✚ An offender
- ✚ Addiction or dependency such as alcohol, drugs or gambling
- ✚ Any who are facing a range of adversity such as poverty or redundancy and who have dependents

We recognise the needs of vulnerable adults as the following:

- ✚ Access to knowledge and information
- ✚ Choice
- ✚ Confidentiality *

- ✚ Consent
- ✚ Dignity and respect
- ✚ Equality and diversity
- ✚ Fulfilment
- ✚ Independence
- ✚ Privacy
- ✚ Safety
- ✚ Support

2 Confidentiality

*While we recognise the right to confidentiality, we understand our duty of care to break confidentiality if we have reason to believe that the person may be **at risk of significant harm to themselves or others or that a crime may have been committed**. In such cases, information would be shared on a 'need-to-know' basis.

3 Recognising the Signs and Symptoms of Abuse

Through our annual Safeguarding training and regular safeguarding updates we seek to be informed as to the signs and symptoms of abuse which are pertinent to adults as well as children and to take responsibility to report any such concerns to our Parish Safeguarding Officer. These include signs which might indicate:

- ✚ Physical abuse
- ✚ Sexual abuse (contact and non-contact such as 'sexting' or exposure to pornographic material)
- ✚ Neglect including self-neglect
- ✚ Emotional abuse (including self-harm, web-based abuse and witnessing domestic violence)
- ✚ Institutional abuse (eg that which is carried out within a care home)
- ✚ Discriminatory abuse (eg the person's race, family, ethnic origin or background)
- ✚ Financial/material abuse
- ✚ Domestic abuse
- ✚ Spiritual abuse
- ✚ Modern slavery, human trafficking and gangs
- ✚ An adult at risk of radicalisation

As a parish, we undertake to exercise proper care in the Safer Recruitment of employees and volunteers by following the guidelines for DBS checks as advised by Church of England policy.

4 Responding to a Disclosure or Concern

The parish recognises its statutory obligations to report cases of concern to the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor where it believes a vulnerable person to be **at risk of significant harm to himself or others**. The information may come out of a direct disclosure, third party disclosure, or through observations of changes in behaviour, demeanour or well-being. It may present as an 'UH-OH' feeling within us that something is out of kilter with the norm even though there may be nothing specific one can pin-point.

Any member of the church community should feel empowered to share information if they feel an adult to be at risk of SIGNIFICANT HARM.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is: Revd B T Huish Mob: 07720 611336

Our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is: BETH MILLER Mob: 07968 034075

If you are concerned that a child or adult is being harmed or neglected you can ring the Social Care Services emergency number on 03000 267 979 or 999.

In the case of an adult who may be at risk of radicalisation call 999 or ring the National Counter-Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321

Local Durham Partners for Counter-Terrorism & Domestic Abuse:

- **Prevent Strategy:** Counter-terrorism & violent extremism in the UK
- To report or refer an individual who may be vulnerable to radicalisation phone Force Prevent Team 0191 375 2234 or alternatively ring 999.
- **PREVENT DUTY hotline:** 020 7340 7264
- **Domestic Abuse** Project Support Officer, Durham Constabulary : Holly Dobson 0191 3752125 www.sorrystnotenough.co.uk

Harbour Support Services provide free confidential advice and support to both men and women who are experiencing domestic abuse in County Durham or Darlington areas. They can be contacted on T: 03000 20 25 25 W: www.myharbour.org.uk

The Meadows: Sexual Assault Referral Centre offers confidential help and advice for anyone in County Durham and Darlington who has been raped or sexually assaulted . Tel: 0191 301 8554 www.themeadowsdurham.org.uk

Reference has been made to the following documents when forming this policy:

Ref 1 - The definition of vulnerable adult is from the leaflet entitled 'Adult Abuse – Guidance for Staff', published by the Northern Ireland Office and Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in 2009 and available from the nidirect website at www.nidirect.gov.uk

- ✚ **Promoting a Safe Church** : Policy for Safeguarding Adults in the Church of England (Pages 38-43 Signs and symptoms of adult abuse, page 35 Confidentiality, page 9 Model policy for Vas)
- ✚ **Church of England Safeguarding Pilots Modules 1 and 2**, Durham Diocese. Spring 2015 onwards.
- ✚ **'Protecting all God's Children'**, 4th edition , 2010
- ✚ **'Responding Well to those who have been sexually abused'**, Policy and Guidance for the Church of England, 2011.
- ✚ **Responding to domestic abuse:** Guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility, Church of England 2006
- ✚ **Safe and Secure;** Diocesan Safeguarding Policy 2009
- ✚ **Social Care Institute for Excellence:** (SCIE) www.scie.org.uk tel : 020 7024 7650
- ✚ **Mental Capacity Act 2005**
- ✚ **Anti-Terrorism Act 2015**
- ✚ **Citizens Advice Bureau, UK.**

Appendix 1: Vulnerable Adults' Policy

Resources for adults who may be vulnerable:

Call Samaritans free of charge from any phone on 116 123.

- Action on Elder Abuse: 080 8808 8141 (www.elderabuse.org.uk)
- Adult Abuse Speak Up : 0800 137 915
- Age Concern England www.ageconcern.org.uk
- Alzheimer's Society: www.alzheimers.org.uk
- Church Action on Disability: 0807 243 0678 www.chaduk.org
- Help the Aged: 020 7278 1114 www.helptheaged.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- MIND: 020 8519 2122 www.mind.org.uk
- Royal National Institute for the Blind: RNIB www.rnib.org.uk
- Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) www.rnid.org.uk
- Scope: www.scope.org.uk
- The Shaftesbury Society : www.shaftesburysociety.org.uk
- Through the Roof: www.throughtheroof.org
- www.bbc.co.uk
- Modern Slavery Helpline: 0800 0121 700
- Gangs Helpline: 0808 800 500

Resources for Adult Survivors of Abuse:

- Women's Aid 24 hour national helpline: 08457 023468 www.womensaid.org.uk
- Respond (support for those with learning difficulties who have suffered abuse): 0808 808 0700 www.respond.org.uk
- Survivors UK (support for male survivors):www.survivors.org.uk
- NAPAC (telephone helpline for adults abused as children): 0800 085 3330 www.napac.org.uk
- Christian Survivors of Sexual Abuse (CSSA) c/o 38 Sydenham Villa Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 6DZ
- S:Vox (support and help for survivors of all kinds of abuse): www.svox.org.uk



- Childline number for adults to ring if they are concerned for a child : 0808 800 5000
- NSPCC Female Genital Mutilation helpline 0800 028 3550