



Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

This policy was agreed at a church meeting held on 27th November 2024.
It is due to be reviewed in November 2026.

Purpose and Background

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 defines a 'vulnerable adult' as;
Person aged 18 and over and;

- receiving a social care service
- receiving a health service
- living in sheltered accommodation
- detained in custody or under a probation order
- requiring assistance in the conduct of his/her affairs
- receiving a service or participating in an activity targeted at older people, people with disabilities or with physical or mental health conditions

Policy Statement

Stanmore Chapel is fully committed to providing an environment that is free from abuse and harm. It will actively promote a free and safe culture by: clearly identifying and communicating the roles and responsibilities within the organisation for safeguarding; having clear procedures in place; training all workers in safeguarding procedures and by allocating sufficient resources to safeguarding; applying a zero tolerance to any form of abuse and harm.

Roles and Responsibilities

Cecilia Ileyemi (cileyemi@hotmail.co.uk) currently acts as Safeguarding Officer & Lead Recruiter - liaising with the FIEC and thirtyone:eight (formerly CCPAS) as necessary, and seeking disclosures and undertaking other administration as appropriate. In addition Chris Tapp (chris.tapp@stanmorechapel.org.uk) is also an approved Recruiter.

The church is a member of thirtyone:eight and will make use of this service, and guidance from the FIEC to ensure that we adhere to current legislation.

The FIEC have a partnership arrangement with the thirtyone:eight and they are responsible for processing DBS Disclosure applications on behalf of FIEC affiliated

churches.

Pastor

- Allocate required resources to provide adequate safeguarding measures
- Provide leadership in ensuring the safety of Vulnerable Adults
- Review and approve policy regularly
- Ensure all workers (staff and voluntary) are competent to manage the safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults and have undergone the necessary DBS checks where necessary
- Regularly review and update safeguarding procedures

Workers

- Familiarise themselves, and comply with, policy and procedures
- Attend training as required
- Report any concerns through the appropriate channels

Defining adult abuse

Adult abuse may be defined as; the mistreatment and violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons.

Such abuse can take many forms, from treating someone with disrespect to causing actual physical suffering. 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 or coerced 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. An adult is at risk if another person's conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed, or the adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct which causes (or is likely to cause) self-harm.

Abuse can take many forms:

- Discriminatory abuse is the inappropriate treatment of an adult because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality or disability. It exists when values, beliefs or culture result in misuse of power that discriminates against some groups or individuals.
- Physical abuse is to inflict pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately, or through lack of care.
- Psychological or emotional abuse is acts or behaviour which causes mental distress or anguish or negates the wishes of the adult. It is also behaviour that has a

harmful effect on the adult's emotional health and development – or any other form of mental cruelty.

- Financial or material abuse is the inappropriate use, misappropriation, embezzlement or theft of money, property or possessions including theft, fraud, exploitation, applying pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Sexual abuse is the involvement in sexual activities to which the person has not consented, or does not truly comprehend and so cannot give informed consent.
- Neglect or acts of omission are the repeated deprivation of help that an adult needs which, if withdrawn, will cause them to suffer.
- Institutional abuse is the mistreatment or abuse of an adult by a regime or individuals within an institution or in the community.

Safeguarding the integrity of the worker

People who work with vulnerable adults particularly can become involved in aspects of their personal finance. For example, they may be asked to collect pensions, do shopping or carry out banking transactions on the person's behalf. When conducting a home visit, money may be lying about. It is therefore important to consider how to protect both the vulnerable adult and the worker from accusations of financial mismanagement or dishonesty.

The following suggestions may help;

- Ensure that receipts are always given for purchases.
- Don't move any money which may have been left out (e.g. when cleaning).
- Ideally two people should be involved when handling money.
- Occasionally workers may be offered presents and / or monetary gifts by those they are caring for. These gifts should be declined if at all possible but if this will cause offence, all gifts and offers of gifts should be reported to the leader of the group and recorded.

Procedures for Dealing with Concerns

You may suspect abuse because:

- You have a general concern about someone's wellbeing.
- You see or hear something which could be abusive.
- Someone tells you that something has happened or is happening to them which could be abusive.

In these circumstances, do not delay. Pass on your concerns to the Safeguarding Officer, or their deputy, immediately.

Confidentiality

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is preserved; although this may well be subject to what may be an overriding need to protect someone who has been, or is at risk of, abuse. Everyone working with vulnerable adults must be clear that it is not possible to keep information about suspected or actual abuse confidential. The needs of the vulnerable adult and any potential risk to others means that any such suspicion must be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or their deputy immediately.

Self determination and independence

The mental capacity of the vulnerable adult is a key factor in deciding what should be done. All actions should be based on the presumption of mental capacity (Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Mental Health Act 2007) and on the consequent right of an adult to make their own choices in relation to their personal safety and well-being.

Exceptions to allowing a person to make their own choices about their safety from abuse and neglect include:

- Where the person lacks mental capacity to make such a choice.
- Where the rights or safety of others would be compromised in allowing the person to exercise their right in making choices about their safety from abuse and neglect.

Where a vulnerable adult lacks the mental capacity to protect themselves or other vulnerable adults from abuse, it may be necessary to take action on their behalf, in their best interests. Any decision concerning mental capacity will follow an assessment carried out by doctors and/or Adult Social Care. If the vulnerable adult is proven to lack mental capacity the person authorised to make decisions on their behalf should always act in a way that promotes their health and well-being, and prevents deterioration in their quality of life.