

Crossways Church Fellowship

Safeguarding Adults

Policy and Procedures (Created Version 27 May 26)

A set of agreed policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment for adults in our care, in accordance with the **Care Act 2014**. This includes adults who may be considered “vulnerable” or who have “care and support needs.”

For the purpose of this document, the term “**adult**” refers to anyone aged **18 or over**.

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Who are the adults at risk?

Under the **Care Act 2014**, safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has **care and support needs** (whether or not these are being met by the local authority); 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 the risk of, or experience of, abuse or neglect.

Adults at risk may include (but are not limited to):

- Older adults
 - Adults with physical or learning disabilities
 - Adults with mental health needs
 - Adults with sensory impairments
 - Adults with dementia
 - Adults with substance misuse issues
 - Adults experiencing homelessness
 - Adults who rely on others for care or support
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What is Adult Abuse?

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts. It may occur in any relationship and may result in harm or exploitation.

Types of abuse recognised in the **Care Act 2014** include:

Physical Abuse

Deliberate or neglectful actions causing physical harm. Includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, burning, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint, or rough handling.

Sexual Abuse

Any sexual activity without valid consent, or where the person does not understand or is pressured into consenting. Includes sexual touching, rape, sexual harassment, and non-contact abuse such as indecent exposure or sexualised communication.

Domestic Abuse

Includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial abuse, coercive control, and threatening behaviour between intimate partners or family members.

Psychological / Emotional Abuse

Actions causing mental distress or undermining dignity. Includes verbal abuse, humiliation, intimidation, threats, controlling behaviour, isolation, and bullying.

Financial or Material Abuse

Misuse, theft, or exploitation of money, property, or possessions. Includes fraud, coercion around wills or inheritance, and misuse of benefits.

Modern Slavery

Includes human trafficking, forced labour, servitude, and exploitation.

Discriminatory Abuse

Unequal treatment or harassment based on protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), such as race, gender, disability, religion, age, or sexuality.

Organisational Abuse

Poor care practices within institutions or care settings, including neglect, unsafe procedures, or rigid routines.

Neglect and Acts of Omission

Failure to meet basic needs, including medical care, nutrition, hygiene, or protection from danger.

Self-Neglect

Behaviour that results in neglecting personal hygiene, health, or environment, including hoarding.

Guidelines for Those Providing Pastoral Care

- Avoid behaviour that could be perceived as favouritism.
 - Be aware of the limits of your own skills and competencies. Seek additional support when needed.
 - Clear guidelines must be followed where personal finances are involved, ensuring financial integrity. This is especially important when assisting adults with shopping.
 - Respect privacy and dignity at all times.
 - Maintain appropriate boundaries and avoid dependency in pastoral relationships.
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Policy Statement on Safeguarding Adults in the Church

The Trustees and Leaders of Crossways Church Fellowship (referred to collectively as “Crossways leadership”) agreed the following statement on _____.

We are committed to safeguarding adults and promoting their wellbeing.

We recognise our responsibility to help prevent **physical, sexual, spiritual, financial, psychological, discriminatory abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and domestic abuse**, and to report any such abuse that is discovered or suspected.

We affirm the **dignity, value, and rights** of every adult and will ensure that all policies and procedures reflect this.

We believe all adults should be able to participate fully in the life of this place of worship.

We undertake to exercise proper care in the **appointment and selection** of those who work with adults with care and support needs or who hold positions of trust. We will promote safer practice and ensure that workers are supported, resourced, trained, and regularly reviewed.

We will keep up to date with national and local safeguarding developments. We will follow statutory, denominational, and specialist guidance, and ensure that all workers operate within our agreed safeguarding procedures.

We will implement the requirements of the **Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Equality Act 2010**, and all other relevant legislation.

We will support anyone within the church community who may be affected by abuse of any kind.

We recognise that **Adult Social Care** has lead responsibility for investigating allegations or suspicions of abuse involving adults with care and support needs.

We recognise that where an allegation suggests a **criminal offence**, the **Police** must be contacted without delay.

We recognise that **safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility**.
This Statement and our Policy will be reviewed **annually**.

Signatures:

Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator: _____

(If a Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator is not yet appointed, the Trustees will manage safeguarding responsibilities.)

Useful Contacts

Age UK – Advice and support

0800 678 1174

Hourglass (formerly Action on Elder Abuse)

0808 808 8141

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

03000 616161

Prospects (Livability) – Christian organisation supporting people with learning disabilities

0118 950 8781

Through the Roof – Equipping churches to include disabled people

01372 737040

Mind – Mental health support

020 8519 2122

Restored – Christian alliance working to end violence against women

0208 943 7706

Victim Support – Support for victims of crime

0808 168 9111

National Autistic Society

0808 800 4104
