

Safeguarding Policy

Charity Registered Address (Mailing): The Ramp, International House, 61 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3HZ

Offices Address: The Town House, Hope Terrace, Stockport SK3 9DU

Sunday Morning Services Address: The Town House, Hope Terrace, Stockport, SK3 9DU

Sunday Evening Services Address: Manchester Academy High School, Moss Lane East, Manchester, M14 4PX

Friday Evening Services Address: St Bride's Church, St Brides Way, Old Trafford, Stretford, Manchester, M16 9NW

Email: mcr@theramp.org

Charity Number: 1175513

Regulators Details: Charity Commission for England and Wales

Insurance Company: Ansvar Insurance

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:

At the Ramp, we have meetings, services, and events to promote the Christian faith, which are designed to be vibrant, dynamic, life-giving and educational. These are held on a regular basis, open to all ages, and not dependent on social class or standing. As a church we provide kids church and youth activities for children 1-18 years of age.

SECTION 1

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Important Names and Contact Information

Lead Pastors:

Joe and Stacie Reeser

Email: joe.reeser@theramp.org / stacie.reeser@theramp.org

Safeguarding Coordinator (Interim):

Cameron Addair

Email: cameron.addair@theramp.org

thirtyone:eight Helpline:

0303 003 1111

Local Authorities:

Manchester City Council for Adults

Phone: 0161 234 5001

Out of Hours: 0161 234 5001

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/socialservices>

Email: mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk

Manchester City Council for Children under 18yrs

Phone: 0161 234 5001

Out of Hours: 0161 234 5001

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/socialservices>

Email: mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk

PPIU (Public Protection Investigation unit)

Phone: 0161 856 5103 or 0161 856 5444

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) - Children's Social Services

Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH)

Phone: 0161 217 6028 (**select option 1**)

Out of Hours: 0161 718 2118

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contact-emergency/adult-and-children-social-care-services>

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) - Adult Social Care

Phone: 0161 217 6029

Out of Hours: 0161 718 2118

Email: adultsocialcare@stockport.gov.uk

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/adult-social-care>

Our Commitment

As 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.

The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on the ten **Safe and Secure** safeguarding standards published by thirtyone:eight.

The Leadership undertakes to:

- Endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures in addition to the international conventions outlined above;
- Provide on-going safeguarding training for all its workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached;
- Ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation and that it is welcoming and inclusive;
- Support the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and vulnerable adults;
- The Leadership agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

SECTION 2: 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.

In order 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 which states:

1. 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 which states:

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

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

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

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. We are also committed to encouraging all

workers to speak out of any concerns. The related policy and details can be found in the employee handbook.

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 regard 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 3: RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. **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 Cameron Addair (hereafter the "Safeguarding Coordinator") email: cameron.addair@theramp.org who 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 Coordinator or if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Coordinator then the report should be made to either of the lead pastors Joe and Stacie Reeser at email: joe.reeser@theramp.org and stacie.reeser@theramp.org. If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Coordinator and the lead pastors, then the report should be made in the first instance to the thirtyone:eight PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent. BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0303 003 1111. Alternatively, contact Social Services or the police.
- The Safeguarding Coordinator 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:

Manchester City Council for Adults

Phone: 0161 234 5001

Out of Hours: 0161 234 5001

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/socialservices>

Email: mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk

Manchester City Council for Children under 18yrs

Phone: 0161 234 5001

Out of Hours: 0161 234 5001

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/socialservices>

Email: mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) - Children's Social Services

Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH)

Phone: 0161 217 6028 (select option 1)

Out of Hours: 0161 718 2118

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contact-emergency/adult-and-children-social-care-services>

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) - Adult Social Care

Phone: 0161 217 6029

Out of Hours: 0161 718 2118

Email: adultsocialcare@stockport.gov.uk

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/adult-social-care>

- The Safeguarding Coordinator 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 Coordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy should not delay referral to Social Services, the police, or taking advice from thirtyone:eight.
- The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Coordinator/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 Coordinator/Deputy has not responded appropriately or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral, they are free to contact an outside agency directly. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrates its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the Safeguarding Coordinator/Deputy is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information onto 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 Coordinator/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 Coordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team directly on 999. 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 IS IN NEED OF PROTECTION

Suspicious or Allegations of Abuse or Harm, Including Physical, Sexual, Organisational, Financial, Discriminatory, Neglect, Self-Neglect, Forced Marriage, Modern Slavery, or Domestic Abuse

If there is concern about any of the above, Safeguarding Coordinator/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 Coordinator/Deputy 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 Coordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will,

- Liaise with Children's Social Services in regard to 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 4: PASTORAL CARE


Supporting Those Affected by Abuse

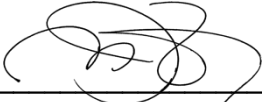
The Leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the place of worship/organisation.

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 an appropriate risk assessment and through consultation with appropriate parties.

Date: 30th November 2023

Signed by:  (Safeguarding Coordinator, Interim)

Signed by:  (Lead Pastor)

APPENDIX 1: LEADERSHIP SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Leadership, Joe Reeser, recognises the importance of its ministry/work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the leadership/organisation on 30th November 2023.

This place of worship/organisation is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults who have care and support needs and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.

We Are Committed To:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following any denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.

- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.
- Supporting parents and families.
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people.
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the thirtyone:eight.

We Recognise:

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care (or equivalent) 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.
- Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to our agency's headquarters.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult with care and support needs, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding coordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

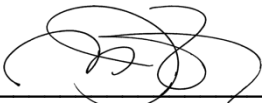
Safeguarding Coordinator: Cameron Addair (Interim)

Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator: N/A

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available on the church's website at www.ramp.church/mcr or upon request from Cameron Addair.

Date: 30th November 2023

Signed by:  (Safeguarding Coordinator, Interim)

Signed by:  (Lead Pastor)

APPENDIX 2: DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Definitions of Abuse: Children

The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)'.

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.

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 from 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.

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 caregivers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Spiritual Abuse

Linked with emotional abuse, spiritual abuse 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.

Spiritual abuse is not limited to a certain faith or religion or denomination. Any person or organisation can perpetrate spiritual abuse. Signs of spiritual abuse between intimate partners or family members can include misinterpretation or manipulation of scripture, abuse of power, intimidation, using spiritual beliefs to shame, isolate or ostracise an individual. Behaviours can include coercive control, physical, financial, emotional, psychological, sexual abuse and marital rape.

Investigating Complex (Organised or Multiple) Abuse

This abuse may be defined as abuse involving one or more abusers and a number of children. The abusers concerned may be acting in concert to abuse children, sometimes acting in isolation, or may be using an institutional framework or position of authority to recruit children for abuse.

Complex abuse occurs both as part of a network of abuse across a family or community, and within institutions such as residential homes or schools. Such abuse is profoundly traumatic for the children who become involved. Its investigation is time-consuming and demanding work, requiring specialist skills from both police and social work staff. Some investigations become extremely complex because of the number of places and people involved, and the timescale over which abuse is alleged to have occurred. The complexity is heightened where, as in historical cases, the alleged victims are no longer living in the setting where the incidents occurred or where the alleged perpetrators are also no longer linked to the setting or employment role. (Working Together 2010 Sections: 6.10 – 6.11)

Sexually Exploited Children and Young People

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced a number of new offences to deal with those who sexually exploit children and young people. The offences protect children up to the age of 18 and can attract tough penalties. They include:

- paying for the sexual services of a child;
- causing or inciting child prostitution;
- arranging or facilitating child prostitution; and
- controlling a child prostitute.

Significant Harm

This relates to the degree of harm that triggers statutory action to protect a child. It is based on the individual child's health or development compared to that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child. E.g., severity of ill treatment, degree and extent of physical harm, duration and frequency of abuse and neglect, premeditation. Department of Health guidance suggests that 'significant' means 'considerable, noteworthy or important'.

Children in Whom Illness Is Fabricated or Induced (Formerly Known as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy)

This is a form of child abuse in which the parents or carers give false accounts of symptoms in their children and may fake signs of illness (to draw attention to themselves). They seek repeated medical investigations and needless treatment for their children. The government guidance on this is found in 'Safeguarding Children in whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced' (2002).

Domestic Violence and Abuse (not Domestic Violence)

The UK government's definition of domestic violence and abuse (2013) states:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial/economical
- Stalking and Harassment
- Emotional
- Spiritual
- Online and digital abuse

"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. 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." *

This definition includes so called Honour Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) identifies children as victims of domestic abuse if they see, hear or are exposed to domestic abusive behaviour.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021>

Domestic Abuse Services

If you are in immediate danger call: **999**

If you can't talk, wait until you are connected and press **55** from a mobile

If you are not in immediate danger but still need the police call GMP on **101** or **Report Online**

If you need information advice or support contact:

24hr National Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 2000 247

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/Contact-us>

Manchester Women's Aid

<https://www.pankhursttrust.org/contact-us>

0161 660 7999. Monday to Friday 9.30am to 7pm

Email: referrals@manchesterwomensaid.org

Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Helpline

0800 254 0909. Monday to Friday 10am-4pm
<https://www.domesticabusehelpline.co.uk/our-services/greater-manchester-domestic-abuse-helpline/>

NSPCC

0808 800 5000
Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

Childline

0800 1111
<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Men's Advice Line

0808 801 0327
<https://mensadvice.org.uk/>

Stockport Without Abuse

0161 477 4294
<https://www.stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk/>
Email: info@stockportwithoutabuse.org

Definitions of Abuse: Adults

The following information relates to the Safeguarding of Adults as defined in the Care Act 2014, Chapter 14. Safeguarding, this replaces the previous guidelines produced in 'No Secrets' (Department of Health 2000).

The legislation is relevant across England and Wales but on occasions applies only to local authorities in England.

The Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who;

- Has need for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs);
- Is experiencing or at risk of, abuse or neglect;
- 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.

Organisations should always promote the adult's wellbeing in their safeguarding arrangements. People have complex lives and being safe is only one of the things they want for themselves. Professionals should work with the adult to establish what being safe means to them and how that can be best achieved. Professional and other staff should not be advocating 'safety' measures that do not take account of individual well-being, as defined in Section 1 of the Care Act. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

This section considers the different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

- Physical abuse – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse – Controlling and/or threatening relationships including

psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse; so-called 'honour' based violence and Female Genital Mutilation. These can occur in couple relationships or between family members. Domestic violence can happen against anyone, and anybody can be an abuser.

- 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, indecent exposure, and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- Psychological abuse – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyberbullying, 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, or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.
- 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.
- 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, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one-off incidents to ongoing ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes, and practices within an organisation.
- 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.
- Self-neglect – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings, and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
- Cuckooing- Criminals exploit vulnerable adults to store and manufacture drugs in their homes, they can target single mothers, ex-drug users, older people and female sex workers

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse

- History of unexplained falls, fractures, bruises, burns, minor injuries
- Signs of under or overuse of medication and/or medical problems left unattended

Domestic Violence and Abuse

- Unexplained injuries or 'excuses' for marks or scars

- Destructive criticism and verbal abuse: shouting; mocking; accusing; name calling; verbally threatening.
- Pressure tactics: sulking; threatening to withhold money, disconnecting the phone and internet, taking away or destroying your mobile, tablet or laptop, taking the car away, taking the children away; lying to your friends and family about you; telling you that you have no choice in any decisions.
- Disrespect: persistently putting you down in front of other people; not listening or responding when you talk; interrupting your telephone calls; taking money from your purse without asking; refusing to help with childcare or housework.
- Breaking trust: lying to you; withholding information from you; being jealous; having other relationships; breaking promises and shared agreements.
- Isolation: monitoring or blocking your phone calls, e-mails and social media accounts, telling you where you can and cannot go; preventing you from seeing friends and relatives; shutting you in the house.
- Harassment: following you; checking up on you; not allowing you any privacy, repeatedly checking to see who has phoned you; embarrassing you in public; accompanying you everywhere you go.
- Denial: saying the abuse doesn't happen; saying you caused the abuse; saying they can't control their anger; being publicly gentle and patient; crying and begging for forgiveness; saying it will never happen again.
- [Coercive control](#): (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence)

Sexual Abuse

- Pregnancy in a woman who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse
- Unexplained change in behaviour or sexually explicit behaviour
- Torn, stained, or bloody underwear and/or unusual difficulty in walking or sitting
- Infections or sexually transmitted diseases
- Full or partial disclosures or hints of sexual abuse
- Self-harming

Psychological Abuse

- Alteration in psychological state—e.g., withdrawn, agitated, anxious, tearful
- Intimidated or subdued in the presence of a carer
- Fearful, flinching, or frightened of making choices or expressing wishes
- Unexplained paranoia

Financial or Material Abuse

- Disparity between assets and living conditions
- Unexplained withdrawals from accounts or disappearance of financial documents

- Sudden inability to pay bills
- Carers or professionals fail to account for expenses incurred on a person's behalf
- Recent changes of deeds or title to property

Modern Slavery

- Physical appearance—e.g., unkempt, inappropriate clothing, malnourished
- Movement monitored, rarely alone, travel early or late at night to facilitate working hours
- Few personal possessions or ID documents
- Fear of seeking help or trusting people

Discriminatory Abuse

- Inappropriate remarks, comments, or lack of respect

Organisational Abuse

- No confidence in complaints procedures for staff or service users
- Neglectful or poor professional practice

Neglect and Acts of Omission

- Deteriorating despite apparent care
- Poor home conditions, clothing, or care and support
- Lack of medication or medical intervention

Self-Neglect

- Hoarding inside or outside a property
- Neglecting personal hygiene or medical needs

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more.

APPENDIX 3: PRACTICE GUIDELINES

As an organisation/place of worship working with children, young people and vulnerable adults 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.

As well as a general code of conduct for workers we also have specific good practice guidelines for every activity we are involved in and these are attached/will be developed.

Filming/Taking Photographs: In the event the place of worship/organisation wants to take images or footage of people, we have a consent form that will be given to the parents of any children in the video or photo, before we use the footage. Consent will be obtained before any footage is recorded or photos are taken. For the safety policy meeting children, young people and vulnerable adults online, please follow the guideline found at https://thirtyoneeight.org/media/2602/guidance-for-online-youth-work_v2.pdf

Outings: If the organisation arranges day trips or visits for children and young people under 18, parents or carers will complete and sign a consent form for the activity. The organisation will also carry out a risk assessment of the activity to ensure all eventualities are covered and all adults in the team know what to do in the event of an accident or emergency. On the day, the organisation will take a fully charged mobile phone, all essential records and equipment and allocate named children to named pairs of adults.

Transportation: Where children, young people or adults with care and support needs are being transported by minibus the organisation will ensure there are guidelines in place and that these apply to all drivers and journeys carried out on behalf of and with the knowledge of the organisation.

Unexpected Attendance at Events/Activities: In the event that children, young people or vulnerable adults want to join in with an organisation's activities without the knowledge of parents or carers e.g. children playing outside or wandering the streets with no adult supervision, the organisation and volunteers/workers will:

- Welcome them, but try to establish their name, age (children), address and telephone number. Record their visit in a register.
- Ask if a parent/carer is aware where they are, and what time they are expected home.
- If this is before the session ends, they should be encouraged to return home, unless the parent/carer can be contacted, and they are happy with the arrangement. In the case of children in particular, suggest the child seeks the parent/carer's permission to return the following week.
- Link the visiting person with a regular attendee who can introduce them to the group and explain about the activity.
- On leaving, give the person a leaflet about the group with contact telephone numbers etc and perhaps a standard letter to the parent/carer inviting them to make contact.
- Without interrogation, the organisation will find out as soon as possible whether they have any additional needs, (e.g. medication), so that we can respond appropriately in an emergency.

Drop-in Centre: The organisation and workers/volunteers will:

- Conduct regular fire drills to ensure that the building is evacuated completely and within a set time scale.
- Ensure all the users of the drop-in centre only have access to specific areas of the

building.

- Have sufficient workers to supervise those who visit the centre.

Challenging Behaviour: If someone is being disruptive and their behaviour may endanger themselves or others, the volunteers/workers are instructed to:

- Ask them to stop.
- Speak to them to establish the cause(s) of the upset.
- Inform them they will be asked to leave if the behaviour continues.
- Warn them if they continue to be disruptive, this might result in longer-term exclusion from the group.
- If they are harming themselves, another person or property then others in the group should be escorted away from the area where the disruption is occurring. At the same time, and with a second worker present, request them to STOP. If your request is ignored, you might need to warn the individual that you will consider calling the Police. As a last resort, in the event of them harming themselves, other people or property, physical restraint may be needed until the Police arrive.