



4. TERMS USED IN SAFEGUARDING

Our safeguarding policies and procedures are designed to promote a safe, warm and nurturing environment within which to practise our religious faith and to ensure the safety of children, vulnerable adults and our congregational community of caring Christians.

Definition of Terms

Abuse Safeguarding concerns or allegations may be about something that is going on now and/or something that may happen in the future (**recent**) or something that happened in the past (**non-recent**). Abuse includes:

- **Physical abuse** including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, shaking, burning, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions.
- **Sexual abuse** including rape, sexual assault or sexual acts such as non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing to which the vulnerable adult or child has not consented or could not consent or was pressurised into consenting. It may include involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities. The downloading, keeping or distributing of indecent images is also considered sexual abuse. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children or young people may be 'groomed' or tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed and exploited online.
- **Psychological abuse** including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. This also includes bullying and cyber bullying.
- **Financial or material abuse** including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.



- **Neglect or acts of omission** including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. Neglect of children also includes failure to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, to provide adequate supervision.
- **Discriminatory abuse** based on race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, that based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.
- **Domestic abuse** is usually a systematic, repeated and often escalating pattern of behaviour by which the abuser seeks to control, limit and humiliate, often behind closed doors. The welfare of the adult victim of domestic abuse is important, but where there are children in the family, they too are victims of domestic abuse. Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse. Consideration of the child's welfare always comes first.

Teenagers can suffer domestic abuse in their relationships.
- **Organisational abuse** including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care 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.
- **Modern Slavery** including human trafficking; forced labour and domestic servitude; traffickers and slave masters using whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- **Online Abuse** includes cyber bullying and grooming via chat rooms, social networking sites, messaging services, mobile phones, online gaming sites and the internet generally.



Child. The term 'child' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

Young Person. This refers to someone between 16 and 18 years of age.

Vulnerable Adult or 'Adult at Risk' in our policies refers to a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired temporarily or indefinitely. Some adults may not consider themselves vulnerable but may be vulnerable to being abused by individuals in positions of leadership and responsibility. As adults are not inherently vulnerable and in need of protection, it is important to recognise that the factors described below do not, of themselves, mean that a person is vulnerable. It is a combination of these factors and the circumstances that a person finds him/herself in that can make an individual vulnerable to abuse or neglect.

Some factors that increase vulnerability include:

- A mental illness, chronic or acute
- A sensory or physical disability or impairment
- A learning disability
- A physical illness
- Dementia
- An addiction to alcohol or drugs
- Failing faculties of old age
- Those who are homeless
- Refugee families or individuals (including those seeking asylum)
- Victims/survivors of domestic abuse – direct violence and/or significant emotional coercion
- Those who have suffered historic abuse in childhood
- A permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity brought about by life events - for example bereavement, abuse or trauma

These factors may not exist in isolation; for example, someone with a drink problem masking underlying dementia; or a frail, housebound, elderly person with underlying depression.