

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Hoddesdon Christadelphian Conference

This policy was adopted by the Hoddedon Committee on 17/02/22 after consultation with Trustees and other interested parties. The policy applies to both those attending in person and those joining via a digital platform such as Zoom.

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1. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

This Document is applicable to vulnerable adults. A separate document applies to the Safeguarding of children if people who are under 18 attend the conference.

- Roles and Responsibilities of Members and the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Risk Assessment: Safe Activities and Safe Environment

Information is taken from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-for-charities-and-trustees>

2. Principles and practice

Trustees, Committee Members and session leaders recognise that as an expression of our love of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ we will show love to all (Matthew 22: 37-39, Galatians 6:10) and treat others as we would wish to be treated (Matthew 7: 12).

We are aware that in seeking to put these principles into practice we will take particular care when dealing with children (see separate Child Safeguarding Policy) and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The aim of this policy is to promote the freedom and dignity and respect of everyone

3. What is Safeguarding Adults at Risk?

Safeguarding adults at risk means protecting their right to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect. Safeguarding means making arrangements or taking precautions intended to protect people from abuse, including significant harm or exploitation.

Safeguarding duties for adults at risk apply to anyone aged 18 or over who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and
- is experiencing, or is 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 or take steps to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation or who cannot care for themselves

4. Who are vulnerable adults?

A vulnerable adult is anyone aged 18 or over who is in a vulnerable situation or relationship. They may have difficulty making their wishes or feelings known. They may need or already receive community care services such as a care package or support worker or they may be heavily dependent on one or more family members or friends.

They may be unable or have no means of dealing with intimidation, false accusations, humiliation, coaxing, coercion or may feel that someone is trying to take control over their activities

They may be confused. They may be having problems with personal hygiene.

A vulnerable adult may find it difficult to form healthy and steady boundaries and pushing or challenging their boundaries can become damaging to that individual.

A vulnerable adult may find it difficult to express their concerns or feelings which can lead to misunderstandings of their situation.

An adult at risk of abuse may:

- have an illness affecting their mental or physical health. This would include problems mobility or with eyesight or hearing
- have a learning disability
- suffer from drug or alcohol problems
- be frail

5. What is abuse?

Abuse may be physical, emotional or sexual or financial exploitation. It may involve not looking after someone properly, taking money or property without informed consent, misusing it or committing fraud.

It may include poor care practices, bullying or humiliating, or not allowing contact with family or friends. It often involves criminal acts.

It may be managing or taking control of someone without their permission

Abuse can be a single act or it may continue over time and may take many different forms. It can be unintentional or deliberate but in all cases it will result in harm to the victim that affects their wellbeing or security. Individuals may suffer more than one kind of abuse.

6. Who might abuse a vulnerable adult?

An abuser may be:

- A partner, family member, friend or neighbour.
- A carer, volunteer, staff member or another service user.
- A stranger.

7. Where could abuse happen?

Abuse could happen anywhere and at any time including:

- In the victim's own home or someone else's.
- In a day centre, care home or hospital.
- At work or in a college or school.
- In a public place, including any ecclesial or other meeting room.
- Internet virtual sessions

8. What increases the risk of abuse?

Anyone can be at risk of abuse but the majority of people are not at risk all of the time.

The risk of abuse increases when:

- Someone is isolated.
- They depend on others for food or personal care.
- They are suffering from an illness or recovering.
- They are not mentally capable of making decisions for themselves.
- They have suffered previous abuse.

9. The Process of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults is:

- To respond quickly to ensure effective response to any form of harm, neglect or abuse that has or is taking place
- To consult with the vulnerable adult as far as possible to explain a proposed course of action
- Put in place a plan to assist and protect the adult.
- Make sure regular monitoring takes place when concerns have been raised.

10. How can I help a vulnerable adult but reduce the risk of being accused of abuse?

- Always be sensitive to their needs and treat them courteously.
- It is important to seek their permission before managing or taking control of their situation.
- Unless they are your close friend or family member or they rely on you for personal or professional care, try to have someone else with you when spending time with them, especially for long periods.
- If they need help with financial matters or dealing with property try to get their agreement to involve someone else such as a member of their family or a member of staff at their bank, building society or solicitor's office.

11. What should I do if I think a vulnerable adult is being abused?

In an **emergency** or if someone is in **immediate danger** call **999**.

To report a crime (non-emergency) call **101**(Local Police)

If there is not an emergency speak to the **Designated Safeguarding Leads**:

Name

Alison Tarrant

Deputy: Redmond Peel

If the DSL is not available and you need to get advice or report adult abuse quickly, contact Hertfordshire services on 0300 123 4043. In addition, check the permanent address of the vulnerable adult and contact the local authority safeguarding organisation that covers that address.

APPENDIX:

Signs of abuse that may be witnessed during the weekend conference:

Signs of physical abuse

- bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, and rope marks, broken bones, open wounds, cuts, punctures, untreated injuries in various stages of healing.

Signs of sexual abuse

- an individual's report of being sexually assaulted or raped.

Signs of mental mistreatment/emotional abuse

- being emotionally upset or agitated
- being extremely withdrawn and non communicative or non responsive
- unusual behavior usually attributed to dementia (e.g., sucking, biting, rocking)
- nervousness around certain people
- an individual's report of being verbally or mentally mistreated

Signs of neglect

- dehydration, malnutrition and poor personal hygiene
- unattended or untreated health problems
- an individual's report of being mistreated

Signs of self-neglect

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene
- inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of the necessary medical aids
- talk of grossly inadequate housing or homelessness.
- inadequate medical care, not taking prescribed medications properly

Signs of exploitation

- individual's report of exploitation, e.g being asked to pay for things they don't need.

Signs of abandonment

- individual's report of being abandoned, e.g. of being deserted in a public place