

Responding to disclosure

Abused children and vulnerable adults are more likely to disclose details of abuse to someone they trust and with whom they feel safe. By listening and taking seriously what they say you are already helping the situation. The following points are a guide to help church and activity leaders respond appropriately.

Responding to concerns

It is the responsibility of the leaders to take a lead on reporting any concerns to the Safeguarding Coordinator/Deputies and to assist in any further action required on behalf of the church. Contact details are given below. If you have any concerns regarding a child or adults at risk who you think is being abused it is important to act immediately. All concerns must be shared with the Lead Pastor, Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Deputies. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator should also ensure that any person reporting an incident is reassured that their concerns are being dealt with appropriately.

You can discuss your concerns by ringing the following numbers:

Safeguarding Coordinator:

Annemarie Walton

Deputy Safeguarding Coordinators:

Joan Bates

Email: safeguarding@hanleyelim.co.uk

Mobile: 07783 086580

Local Authority: The Local Safeguarding Partners (Local Safeguarding Children Board or equivalent) for protecting children can be contacted:

City of Stoke on Trent Children and Families

Duty Office/System 01782235100

Out of hours 01782234234

Child Protection Team LADO Officer (01782235100)

Designated Person John Halon

In the case of an emergency 999 first

www.stoke.gov.uk

The Safeguarding Adults Board (or equivalent) can be contacted:

City of Stoke on Trent Front Door Service

08005610015 (Safeguarding Team - press 4) Out of hours 01782234234 www.stoke.gov.uk

Hanley Police Station: 01785 898844

Safeguarding Children, Young people and Adults At Hanley Elim Church



This leaflet has been designed to help you to understand what abuse is, and to tell you where you can get help if you think a child, young person or person at risk is being harmed.

Although you may feel you do not want to get involved, **everyone** is responsible for keeping children, young people and adults who are at risk.

Abuse, including neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or adult at risk. Somebody may abuse a child or adult at risk by inflicting harm, or failing to act to prevent harm. Children and adults at risk 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 and social media. They may also be abused by an adult or adults, or by another child or children.

Types and Signs of Abuse

Please note that the examples and signs detailed below may also be indicators of other medical factors and may not necessarily confirm abuse and neglect. These examples are provided as a guide to help church and activity leaders within their assessment process and the work with children, adults and their families.

Physical Abuse

Examples include: Hitting, slapping, scratching, restraining without justifiable reasons, misusing medication, deprivation of food, clothing, warmth and appropriate health care.

Signs could include:

- History of unexplained falls or minor injuries
- Unexplained bruising in well protected areas of the body, eg- inside of thighs and upper arms.
- Malnutrition, ulcers, bedsores, left in wet clothing

Emotional/Psychological Abuse

Examples include: Feeling threatened or fearful of someone, verbal abuse, eg: words that are hurtful and demeaning.

Signs could include:

- Anxiety and confusion
- Spending long periods alone
- Appearing frightened

Sexual abuse

Examples include: Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. Sexual physical contact or involving children looking at or in the production of abusive images.

Signs could include:

- Any allegations made by a child concerning sexual abuse
- Child with excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detail knowledge of adult sexual behaviour
- Sexual activity through words, play or drawing

Neglect

Examples include: persistent failure to meet a persons basic and/or psychological needs. Likely to result in the impairment in health or development.

Signs could include:

- Malnutrition, begging, stealing or holding food
- Poor hygiene
- Unattended physical or mental problems
- Unkept clothing or being kept in nightclothes during the day

Further abuse for adults

Financial abuse

Examples include: misuse or theft of money, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance.

Signs could include:

- Withdrawal of large sums of money or personal possessions missing
- Extraordinary interest and involvement by persons in an individuals assets

Discriminatory abuse

Examples include: harassment and discrimination according to gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, age, language, religion or politics.

Signs could include:

- Tendency to withdraw, fearfulness and anxiety
- Loss of self esteem, non access to services

Institutional abuse

Examples include: inflexible and non negotiable systems and routines.

Signs could include:

- Inappropriate ways of addressing people, name calling
- Lack of adequate physical care- an unkept appearance

Modern slavery

Whilst we may not come across this, we should be aware of this type of abuse. Examples include: Slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.

Signs could include:

- As per emotional/psychological abuse