
Bromham Baptist **Church**

Vulnerable Adults Policy

Version 1.4

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1. Introduction

Churches should be safe places for all, both children and adults, where everyone is made to feel welcome and are valued, respected and cared for. It is acknowledged that significant numbers of vulnerable adults, (i.e. adults with care and support needs), are abused and thus it is important that a Safeguarding Adults Policy, a set of procedures to follow and preventative measures are put in place.

This policy will enable Bromham Baptist Church to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe vulnerable adults with whom it has contact in connection with church activities.

The policy, with its procedures, should enable everyone involved help prevent abuse and know what to do in the event of suspected abuse. Vulnerable adults are people aged 18 years or over, who may be at increased risk of abuse. The following factors could increase this risk –

- Learning, sensory or physical disability
- Old age and frailty, especially if it creates dependency on, or needing help from, others
- Mental health problems
- Dementia or confusion
- Severe illness
- In addition, adults may be made vulnerable by means of a permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity brought about by life events e.g. an illness, bereavement, past abuse or trauma.

2. Safeguarding Adults Policy Statement

As members of this Church

- We commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safety of all, especially vulnerable adults with whom we have contact in connection with church activities.
- We recognise it is the responsibility of each one of us, where possible, to prevent the physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with vulnerable adults, whether paid or volunteer. This includes DBS checks, as required for everyone in pastoral care who is in contact with a vulnerable adult.
- We promote good practice in pastoral care when working alongside vulnerable adults, so that everyone concerned knows what to expect in terms of good conduct and accountability, and that any boundaries set are respected at all times.

The Church will appoint a designated named person as a Safeguarding Adults Coordinator.

Those working with vulnerable adults should be aware of the limits of their own activities and competencies and to whom they are accountable. Appropriate training and support will be made available as needed.

3. Abuse

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons' (No Secrets: Department of Health, 2000)

Such abuse can take many forms, from treating someone with disrespect - so as to significantly affect his or her quality of life - to causing actual physical suffering.

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly, it may be a single act or repeated acts.

People who behave abusively come from all backgrounds and walks of life – including professional staff, volunteers, relatives, friends, neighbours and people in positions of trust.

Abuse can happen anywhere, including in the home, at work, in a hospital or nursing/residential home and in places of worship such as churches.

Abuse includes:

- Physical abuse – including hitting, slapping, punching, burning, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint
- Psychological or emotional abuse – including belittling, name calling, threats of harm, intimidation, isolation
- Sexual abuse – including rape, indecent assault, inappropriate touching, exposure to pornographic material
- Neglect or acts of omission – including withholding the necessities of life such as medication or food or warmth, and ignoring medical or physical care needs
- Financial or material abuse – including stealing, selling assets, fraud, misuse or misappropriation of property or possessions or benefits
- Discriminatory abuse – including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment
- Institutional or organisational – including regimented routines and cultures, unsafe practices, lack of person-centred care or treatment

4. Procedures

Bromham Baptist Church is committed to working within the current legal framework and with other appropriate agencies for reporting abuse.

Any concerns about abuse should be passed on to the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator. These may be a general concern about someone's well-being, something you have heard or seen that could be abusive or something you are told that has happened or is happening to someone that could be abusive.

If you receive an allegation of abuse

- Reassure the person concerned
- Listen to what they are saying
- Record what you have been told/witnessed as soon as possible
- Remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief
- Tell them that the information will be treated seriously
- Don't start to investigate or ask detailed or probing questions
- Don't promise to keep it a secret

- Inform the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator at Bromham Baptist Church

If you witness abuse or abuse has just taken place the priorities will be

- To call an ambulance if required • To call the police if a crime has been committed
- To preserve
- To keep yourself and others safe
- To inform the designated person at Bromham Baptist Church
- To record what happened

The Coordinator will advise on the appropriate action and, if abuse is identified, will make sure immediate protection needs are put in place and a referral made to the appropriate agency

5. Appendix 1 - Form for recording an incident

Please use the following as a guide for recording an incident of suspected abuse for the Safeguarding Coordinator

Safeguarding Adults Alert Form

Person completing the form: _____

Contact details: _____

Date incident notified and to whom: _____

Details of incident:

Date and time of alleged incident/harm: _____

Area where incident/harm took place: _____

Who reported the alert: _____

Who was involved:

Details of alleged victim: _____

Name: _____

Address and phone number: _____

Date of birth: _____

Nature of victim's vulnerability: _____

6. Appendix 2 - Overview of Safeguarding Procedures

Referral / alert of suspected abuse to Bromham Baptist Church Safeguarding Coordinator –

a) Decision not appropriate to refer further – local discussion with appropriate church members and changes made to procedures/appropriate support found for the victim, as needed

(b) Decision made to refer - Bedford's local multi agency safeguarding vulnerable adult's board ensures all referrals made are responded to. A decision is made within one working day of receipt of referral or alert, as to whether applies under the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

(c) If decision no, discussion with any appropriate agencies and action as in (a).

(d) If decision yes, Bedford's procedures are followed and will need cooperation of those concerned. Clear written records and ensuring the advice as to what to do following an incident has been followed, will be essential for a successful outcome of these procedures

7. Who to Contact if you suspect that abuse may have occurred

Safeguarding Co-ordinator – Lesley Dean

who can be contacted on 01234 822681 ext 3 or 07814 747496.

Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator – Simon King

who can be contacted on 07968 157556.

Safeguarding Adult Helpline – Social Services:

Telephone: 01234 276222

Email: adultprotection@bedford.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team out of hours telephone: 0300 300 8123