



March 2020

## Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults: Policy and Procedure

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### 1. Policy Context

South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Withywood Centre) commits to following the safeguarding policies in line with the Church of England, safeguarding policy and guidance as issued by the Diocese of Bristol and commits to working within legislation and statutory guidance as related to the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults.

## **Statutory Guidance:**

**Working Together 2018:** This guidance from the Department for Education describes safeguarding processes and the safeguards that every organisation must have in place, including faith organisations, when safeguarding children. See can see the guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> Or online: [www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk](http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk)

**Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2016:** This is guidance from the Department of Health which describes safeguarding processes for adults and the responsibilities of different organisations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#safeguarding-1>

## **2. Policy Statement**

It is the responsibility of all staff, trustees and volunteers of South Bristol Church & Community Trust (the Withywood Centre) to give paramount importance to the nurture and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults, in a safe and secure environment. It is about preventing harm to children and adults wherever possible.

### **We recognise that:**

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- Everyone has different levels of vulnerability and each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
- All children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable (regardless of age, disability, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse which can occur in all families and communities.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults and their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

### **South Bristol Church & Community Trust will develop a culture in The Withywood Centre that:**

- Enables a safe and caring community to provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
- Enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently and protects children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm.
- Ensures all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse.
- Values, listens to and respects children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable, encouraging them.

- Encourages adults who may be vulnerable to lead as independent a life as possible.

**When concerns are raised we will:**

- Respond without delay to every concern raised that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or may be at risk of harm, through abuse or neglect.
- Work with police, local authority and other partners in any investigation, including where allegations are made against staff, volunteer or trustee.
- Challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

**If abuse has occurred we will ensure:**

- Informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired.
- Supervision is provided for any member of staff, volunteer or trustee known to pose a risk of harm to others.
- Appropriate pastoral care is provided to any staff, volunteer or trustee against whom an allegation is made.

**In all recruitment we will:**

- Carefully select those with any responsibility within the Centre (including voluntary workers) in line with our Safer Recruitment Policy and provide ongoing supervision, support and training.

**In our publicity we will:**

- Share information about good safeguarding practice with children, young people and vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and all those working and with them.
- On our website we will ensure there is clear information available regarding our safeguarding arrangements, including a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and other relevant information.

### **3. Who is a child, young person, adult who may be vulnerable?**

**Children and young people:** for the purposes of this policy, means anyone under the age of 18 years. Children and young people may be abused by an adult or child, male or female. It is far more common for a child or young person to be abused by a person known to them than by a stranger. This could be a parent, family member, friend, teacher, minister or anyone else. Children may be abused in person or via electronic media, they may experience harm as a result of seeing or hearing the abuse of others.

Where conflicts of interest arise between the welfare of the child and that of adults, the child's wellbeing must always be of paramount importance and priority.

**Adults who may be vulnerable:** The Care Act 2014 defines an adult to whom statutory safeguarding duties apply as an adult who:

- *Has needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of these 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.*

The definition may apply to anyone 18 years old and over who may not be able to protect themselves from abuse, harm or exploitation, which may be by reason of illness, physical, sensory or learning disability or impairment, mental illness, use of drugs or alcohol. Increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible.

An adult may be abused or neglected by family (including spouses, parents and children), friends, carers (paid and unpaid), strangers and professionals and members of the community. Those at risk may live alone or may live with family or in a care setting e.g. residential home.

#### **4. What is abuse and neglect?**

Please see the table attached as **Appendix 2** This outlines the forms of abuse noted in legislation related to safeguarding children, young people and adults alongside some examples and potential indicators that abuse or neglect may be occurring.

#### **5. What to do if you are concerned that abuse or neglect may be happening**

You may see or hear something of concern or someone may tell you something of concern (a disclosure). If a child, young person or adult tells you that they have experienced abuse, are experiencing abuse or are concerned that they may be at risk:

| <b>Do</b>   | <b>Don't</b>   |
|---|--|
| Listen. Try to move to a quiet space if possible  | Tell them to speak to someone else   |
| Let the person talk at their own pace and say what they want to say. If you need to clarify points ask open questions like:<br>Tell me.. what happened,<br>Explain ... about the incident | Investigate.<br>Ask leading questions e.g. why did they do that, was it 'name', did it hurt you? |

| <b>Do</b>   | <b>Don't</b>  |
|---|---|
| Describe ...where it was , what happened  |   |
| Take it seriously   | Try not to react as though unbelieving or shocked               |
| Reassure. Confirm they are doing the right thing by telling you.  | Tell them not to tell stories                                   |
| Tell them you need to share the concern with the right people e.g. Safeguarding Officer, Police, Social Services. | Promise to keep a secret or tell people who don't need to know. |
| Record what was said and the facts as accurately as possible as soon as possible                                  | Try to just remember it   |
|   | Contact the person the allegation is about                      |

**Whether a child, young person or adult has shared a concern with you or you have seen or heard something of concern...**

**If the situation is urgent** i.e. there is an imminent risk of harm: contact the police on 101 or 999 as appropriate or contact the Local Authority Children or Adults safeguarding Teams:

**Your Local Authority name: Children's Safeguarding Team**

**Telephone number** - Mon to Fri – 8.30am – 5pm – 0117 9036444

**Telephone number** - Out of hours/Weekends – 01454 615165

**Your Local Authority name: Adult Safeguarding Team/Care Direct**

**Telephone Number** - Mon to Fri – 8.30am – 5pm - 0117 9222700

**Telephone number** - Out of hours/Weekends – 01454 615165

Once you have sought advice from Police or the Local Authority and the situation is made safe, inform the Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible of the concern and actions taken; provide a written record of this. If the concern is about the Safeguarding Officer contact the Chair of Trustees or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

**If the situation is of concern but is not urgent:** Contact the Centre Safeguarding Officer to report the concern and provide a written record (if the concern is about the Centre Safeguarding Officer contact the Chair of Trustees or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser). They will decide with you whether to discuss

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with the child, their parents or carers or the adult and any carers and whether a referral to the Local Authority Children or Adults Safeguarding Team is needed or any other action.

**Note:** Anyone can report a concern directly to police or the Local Authority at any time.

South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Withywood Centre) hopes that all will follow this policy but where there is any concern that an issue has not been reported and should be or any reluctance to inform of an incident the Centre Safeguarding Officer wishes to make clear that the most important point is that those concerns are reported to the appropriate authority so that they can be acted upon where needed.

**If there is an allegation that a person in a position of trust (staff member or volunteer) has abused or neglected a child or adult or that such a person may present a risk to a child or adult:**

- The concern should be reported as above; report should reach police and Local Authority within 1 working day.
- The concern should not be made known to the person against whom the allegation is raised without agreement with police and or the Local Authority.
- Next steps will be decided in conjunction with police, Local Authority representatives.

**If a person is identified who has a caution or conviction for abuse of children and or adults who may pose a risk to others:**

- A risk assessment will need to be completed
- And that a written agreement will be needed between the individual and the Centre which agrees when the individual will or will not be involved in certain activities and boundaries of behaviour and support offered.

## **6. Confidentiality and consent**

**Confidentiality:** South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Withywood Centre) accepts the principle that only those with a need to know should be made aware of safeguarding concerns or other confidential information. All staff, trustees and volunteers are expected to share confidential information appropriately and to ensure that written records and verbal information is shared responsibly and stored securely.

**Consent:** South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Withywood Centre) accepts that all people have a right to make their own views and wishes known and that these wishes should be followed wherever possible.

**Children:** Where there is a concern that a child is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect they may ask those that know not to tell anyone. The Centre accepts that we cannot do this; these concerns must be reported to the appropriate authorities to enable the child or young person to receive appropriate help and support. The Centre will asks all staff, Trustees and volunteers to explain this to children in their care when appropriate. Where there is concern that a child is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect. The Centre expects that parents and carers will be communicated with and will have their consent sought for information to be shared with the Local Authority or other agencies. This should happen except where there is concern that to do so would place a child at increased risk or where a parent or carer may be involved in the sexual abuse of the child. In those circumstances advice of the Local Authority or Police should be sought before informing the parents or carers of the concern. Where the allegation is against an individual who may have access to other children or vulnerable adults the referral should be made without seeking consent from parents or carers - how they are made aware of the concerns will be decided alongside statutory agencies.

**Adults:** Adults have the right to make their own decisions about their lives. Consent should be sought from an adult before information is shared about them. However, where an adult withholds consent for a safeguarding concern to be shared with statutory authorities (police and local authority), this should be accepted except where there may be others at risk (e.g. is the abuse or neglect is happening in a care home or hospital or the abuser has access to other vulnerable adults or children) or where there is reason to doubt that the individual has capacity to make that decision or where there is imminent risk of serious harm. Advice should be sought from statutory services (Adult social care or police).

## **7. Record Keeping**

Records of all safeguarding concerns will be kept by the Centre Safeguarding Officer. They will keep a record of the initial concern and all actions taken. The records will be securely held in a locket cabinet, within the Management Teams office. All those involved with any safeguarding concern must ensure that they provide to the Safeguarding Officer any records related to that case for secure storage.

South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Withywood Centre) does not have access to secure email systems. Therefore great care should be taken where email is used to ensure that confidential information is not open to being accessed by unauthorised individuals. Individual's confidential information should not be communicated via email (e.g. any information should not make the individual identifiable by name, address etc.).

Records must be maintained of staff and volunteer training and DBS checks. These will be maintained by the Centre Safeguarding Officer.

- **All serious safeguarding incidents reports will be pass onto the Charity Commission.**

## 8. Safer Recruitment and ongoing support and supervision

All recruitment of staff and volunteers will be undertaken in line with Centres policy 'Safer Recruitment'.

Recruitment of staff and volunteers will only be undertaken by those delegated such responsibility from Centre Manager.

Recruitment of staff and volunteers will only be undertaken according to agreed process.

No one who has not been safely recruited will be permitted to work unsupervised with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable.

In brief: All staff and volunteers will:

- Have all recruitment checks completed and approved prior to starting in role where applicable.
- All eligible staff and volunteers will have a repeat DBS disclosure every 5 years. Any lapsed DBS check will require the post holder to stand down until the check has been completed.
- Attend safeguarding training as required by South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Withywood Centre) Polices.
- Have a named supervisor

## 9. Roles and Responsibilities

| Name                                     | Responsibilities  |
|--|---|
| (SBCCT) Withywood Centre Management Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agree, implement, monitor and review annually this safeguarding policy and all associated policies</li><li>• Ensure all staff and volunteers are recruited safely</li><li>• Agree and implement supporting good practice guidance and processes</li><li>• Recruit and provide adequate support to Centre Safeguarding Officer</li><li>• Ensure all staff and volunteers are adequately trained and supervised</li></ul> |

| Name                 | Responsibilities  |
|----------------------|---|
| Safeguarding Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to all safeguarding allegations and concerns according to policy and guidance</li> <li>• Monitor and report to Trustees regarding adherence to policy and practice</li> <li>• Arrange safeguarding training and maintain records</li> <li>• Process DBS disclosures for the Centre and maintain records</li> </ul> |
| Trustees             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as a point of contact should there be any safeguarding allegation or concern regarding a Safeguarding Officer</li> </ul>   |
| Staff and Volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the safeguarding policy and associated good practice guidance</li> <li>• Report any safeguarding concern as per policy</li> </ul>   |

## 10. Additional Related Policies

### Photographs and videos

It is the policy of South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Witherwood Centre) that no one should take photographs of children or young people without the written consent of that child's parent or carer and the consent of that child where they are old enough to give consent.

Where photographs are to be taken consent will be gained from parents and carers in advance.

All photos and videos taken for The Centre should be stored securely on devices belonging to SBCCT. No photo or video should be left stored on personal photography or videography equipment.

No photo will be taken, shared or used for any purpose which shows a child in any state of undress.

Children will not be named in publicity related to photographs or video.

Where an event may be photographed and is open to the public; signs will be displayed noting that photographs and or video may be taken and inviting anyone not wishing to be in any photos or video used to make this known to a named person. The photographer/ videographer will be named on these signs and will wear ID.

Only those delegated with that responsibility by Centre may ask for parental consent and arrange the taking of any photo or video.

## **Communications and Social Media**

It is the policy of South Bristol Church & Community Trust (The Withywood Centre) that no one employed on a paid or voluntary basis, will contact children or young people directly via social media, email, phone or text without the knowledge and consent of that child or young person's parent or carer.

Where such contact needs to be made (for example a text to advise of a change of time for an activity) the child's parent or carer will be asked for consent in advance and the parent or carer will be copied into that communication.

Very rarely contact may be made with a child or young person without the knowledge of the child's parents or carers (for example where there are serious safeguarding concerns for a child and it would increase the risk to the child to contact the parent). In this case the person making contact with the child must agree in advance with the Centre Safeguarding Officer that this is appropriate, a second adult should be copied into all communications e.g. Centre Safeguarding Officer or Centre Manager and must keep a record of all communications and provide these to the Centre Safeguarding Officer for the case record.

Where a group wishes to have a social media account to publicise or communicate regarding their group or activity the following will apply:

- The account shall not be a personal account belonging to any group member or leader; it will be a separate group account.
- More than one adult will be administrator for the account so that all content and messages can be seen by more than one adult.
- All users will be made aware that bullying, harassment or other anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. Information will be available to all users about how to raise a concern about the conduct of others and who with.
- Steps must be taken to prevent people outside the group having access to the names or personal details of anyone who is part of the group e.g. if a group Facebook page is used, the account settings should prevent group members being identified and any message sent to anyone other than the administrator.
- All those in a leadership role will ensure that their language is professional and appropriate e.g. not adding 'xx' to messages, not using nicknames that are not what the leader is called by everyone else, avoiding addressing others by endearments which would be ambiguous, such as 'love'.

## **Hire of The Withywood Centre for events and activities (whether a fee is chargeable or not)**

Organisations, tenants and individual users meeting at 'The Withywood Centre' will be expected to adhere to this safeguarding policy or where they work regularly with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable, to have their own safeguarding policy.

'The Centre is responsible for overseeing users and ensuring that that agreed hire process and forms are in use. This will include obtaining a copy of the hirers safeguarding policy where relevant and providing a copy of this policy.

### **11. Policy implementation and Review**

This policy is agreed by South Bristol Church & Community Trust on:

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

All staff, volunteers and trustees are required to abide by this policy and associated good practice guidance.

This policy will be made available on the Centre website; a copy will be available from our reception.

This policy is to be reviewed annually.

**Next Review Due: March 2021**

Note: Additional policies and procedures will be needed to support and compliment this document, for example here are a few:

- code of conduct for staff and volunteers,
- complaints policy,
- whistle blowing policy,
- disciplinary policy.

## **Appendix 1: Useful Contact numbers**

- **Withywood Centre Safeguarding Officer is: Tracey Phillips**
- **Contact Number: 0117 9878400 or 07971775225**
- **First Response Team: 0117 9036444**
- **The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser can be contacted on: 0117 906 0100.**
  
- **Your Local Authority name: Children’s Safeguarding Team**  
**Telephone number: Mon-Fri – 8.30am – 5pm – 0117 9036444**  
**Telephone number: Out of hours/Weekends – 01454 615165**
  
- **Your Local Authority name: Adult Safeguarding Team/Care Direct**  
**Telephone Number: Mon-Fri – 8.30am – 5pm - 0117 9222700**  
**Telephone number: Out of hours/Weekends – 01454 615165**
- **Police: 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency)**
  
- **NSPCC Whistleblowing hotline – 0800 0280 285**
  
- **NSPCC FGM Helpline – 0800 028 3550**

## Appendix 2: Categories of Abuse and additional information

### Categories, Definitions and Indicators of Harm (Last Updated February 2020)

| Type Of Harm                                | Definition   | Examples  | Indicators   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Physical</b><br><br>Adults and Children  | Non-accidental harm to the body. From careless rough handling to direct physical violence.<br>Unlawful or inappropriate use of restraint or physical interventions.  | Hitting, slapping, pinching, shaking, pushing, scalding, burning, dragging, kicking, physical restraint, locking an individual in a room or a car.  | History of unexplained falls or minor injuries, bruising which is characteristic of non-accidental injury – hand slap marks, pinch marks, grip marks, bite marks, scalds, flinching, reluctant to undress.   |
| <b>Sexual</b><br><br>Adults and Children    | Direct or indirect involvement in sexual activity without capacity and/or consent. Individual did not fully understand or was pressured into consenting.<br><br>Note: A child under 16 years old can never consent to any sexual act | Coercion to be involved in the making or watching of pornographic material. Coercion to touch e.g. of breasts, genitals, anus, mouth, masturbation of either self or others, penetration or attempted penetration of vagina, anus, mouth with or by penis, fingers and or other objects | Pregnancy in a women unable to give consent, difficulty in walking or sitting with no apparent explanation, torn, stained or bloody underclothes or bedding, Bleeding, bruising to the rectal and/or vaginal area, bruising.<br>Behavioural changes, sexually explicit behaviour, explicit language, self-harm, obsession with washing, fear of pregnancy may be exaggerated |
| <b>Emotional</b><br><br>Adults and Children | Behaviour which has a harmful effect on an individual's emotional well-being or development, causing mental distress undermining their self-esteem and affecting individual's quality of life.                                       | Shouting, coercion, bullying, blaming, insulting, ignoring, threats of harm or abandonment, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, depriving an individual of the right to choice   | Loss of interest, withdrawn, anxious or depressed, frightened, avoiding eye contact, irritable, aggressive or challenging behaviour, unexplained sleep disturbance, self-harm, refusing to   |

| <b>Type Of Harm</b>                       | <b>Definition</b>   | <b>Examples</b>   | <b>Indicators</b>  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Wilful infliction of mental suffering by a person in a position of trust and power.   | and their privacy, dignity, self - expression, deprivation of contact, undermining self-esteem, isolation and over-dependence. Failure to provide a loving environment for a child.   | eat, deliberate soiling, unusual weight gain or loss   |
| <b>Neglect</b><br><br>Adults and Children | Failure of any person who has responsibility for the charge, care or custody of an adult at risk or child to provide the amount and type of care or treatment that a responsible person could be expected to provide. | Fail to meet basic needs including food, environment, access to health care and education, failure to provide for social needs.   | Unwashed/ dirty appearance, clothes too small/big, untreated sores or infections, isolation.   |
| <b>Financial</b><br><br>Adults            | The unauthorised taking (theft), deprivation or misuse of any money, income, assets, funds, personal belongings or property or any resources of an adult at risk without their informed consent or authorisation.     | Misuse of power of attorney or appointeeship. Money and possessions stolen, misuse or misappropriating money, valuables or property, possessions or benefits, undue pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, denying the adult at risk the right to access funds, unauthorised disposal of property or possessions, being asked to part with money on false pretences, | Unexplained or sudden inability to pay bills, Power of Attorney obtained and misused when a person lacks or does not lack mental capacity to understand, unexplained withdrawal of money with no benefits, person lacking goods or services that they can afford, extortionate demands for payments for services |

| <b>Type Of Harm</b>             | <b>Definition</b>  | <b>Examples</b>  | <b>Indicators</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Organisational</b><br>Adults | <p>Involves the collective failure of an organisation to provide safe, appropriate and acceptable standards of service to adults at risk.</p> <p>Mainly relates to health and social care provision but aspects may be relevant to Church settings</p>             | Lack of individualised care, inappropriate confinement or restriction, sensory deprivation, inappropriate use of rules, custom and practice  | <p>Whistle blowing policy not in place and accessible, insufficient employees training and development.</p> <p>Organisational standards not meeting those laid down by regulatory bodies, service users not treated with dignity and respect, diverse needs not recognized and valued in terms of age, gender, disability, ethnic origin, race or sexual orientation, services not flexible</p> |
| <b>Discriminatory</b><br>Adults | <p>Exists when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals.</p>   | <p>Verbal abuse, harassment or similar treatment, unequal treatment, deliberate exclusion from services such as education, health, justice and access to services and protection, harmful or derisive attitudes, inappropriate use of language</p> | <p>Repeated exclusion from rights afforded to citizens such as health, education, employment and criminal justice</p>   |
| <b>Modern Slavery</b>           | <p>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.</p> | <p>Adult or Child trafficked into UK or between places in UK for purpose of sexual abuse or labour.</p> <p>Adult or Child forced to work as domestic servant.</p> <p>Adult or child forced to work as sex worker, farm labourer, car cleaner.</p>  | <p>Individual may not have their passport or Identity documents. They may not have access to or contact with friends and family.</p> <p>May never be left alone, live in poor conditions, not be able to leave of own free will. May have no access to funds.</p>   |

| <b>Type Of Harm</b>   | <b>Definition</b>   | <b>Examples</b>  | <b>Indicators</b>   |
|---|---|--|---|
|   |   |  | May not know where they are or who they are with.   |
| <b>Self-Neglect</b>   | A wide range of behaviour involving neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.  | May not react to or appropriately fulfil needs for health care, food, warmth. May live in an environment that is an environmental or fire risk and not take any measure to reduce risk or inadequate measures. | Environment which is poorly maintained, dirty, animal infested, cramped to the degree that it places the individuals wellbeing at risk.<br>May have untreated or inadequately treated physical health issues.   |
| <b>Domestic Violence</b>                                      | Incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexuality. Age range 16+ | Includes: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence; Female Genital Mutilation; forced marriage.  | Appears to be afraid of partner / of making own choices, behaves as though she/he deserves to be hurt or mistreated, low self-esteem or appear to be withdrawn, appears unable or unwilling to leave perpetrator, makes excuses for or condones the behaviour of the person alleged to have caused harm, blames abuse on themselves |
| <b>Spiritual Abuse</b><br>(not defined in Statutory Guidance) | Inappropriate use of religious belief or practice   | The misuse of the authority of leadership or penitential discipline, oppressive teaching or intrusive healing or deliverance ministries which may result in various types of harm.                             | Could be any of the above.  |

### **Some Additional Information:**

**Child Sexual Exploitation:** All children and young people can be at risk of sexual exploitation. This includes boys and girls of any age. This is a form of sexual abuse. Whilst young people can give consent to sexual acts from the age of 16 (so long as they have the capacity to do so) they continue to be at risk of sexual exploitation beyond their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Any concern that a child or young person may be at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation must be reported immediately to Children's Social Care or the police.** Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

**Female Genital Mutilation:** Female genital mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK. It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK each year, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM. However, the true extent is unknown, due to the "hidden" nature of the crime. The girls may be taken to their countries of origin so that FGM can be carried out during the summer holidays, allowing them time to "heal" before they return to school. There are also worries that some girls may have FGM performed in the UK. Any concern that a child or adult who may be vulnerable may be at risk of FGM must be reported immediately to the relevant Local Authority or directly to police.

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**Terrorism and Extremism:** Any person may become drawn into extremism or sympathy with such views and into terrorism. This will often happen through contacts made via the internet but a culture that supports this can develop in any community, group, school or faith organisation. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places duties on certain bodies, not including Faith Organisations (excepting where such an organisation runs a school or other relevant premises) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Everybody should be alert to any indication that a person or group may be developing or has developed an interest or ideology that may include harm to others. **Any concern related to this whether for a child or adult must be reported to the police without delay.**