

The Bridge Church

Safeguarding Policy: Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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PART ONE: GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Introduction.

1.1 The Management Committee of The Bridge Church (hereinafter referred to as 'The Bridge') aims to provide a safe environment for children, young people and adults in all its events and activities. It aims to safeguard the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults and ensure they are protected from harm or abuse wherever possible. Furthermore, it aims to respond appropriately whenever abuse is suspected or found to have occurred.

Part Two of this policy sets out **the procedures** to be followed in the event that abuse, neglect or harm to a child, young person or vulnerable adult is suspected.

- **Appendix 1** describes in more detail **the signs and types of abuse or harm** which a child or vulnerable person may experience or exhibit.
- **Appendix 2** Outlines in flow chart form the process for acting upon a suspicion of abuse
- **Appendix 3** Describes some of the organisations which can give further help and support at a later stage **-subject to the relevant consent of the individual** who

may wish further support in the period following the investigation into alleged or actual abuse.

1.2 The Management Committee of The Bridge and its leaders aim to ensure that, wherever possible, everyone involved in the different services and events which The Bridge organises are able to have a positive and safe experience of the church.

It is, therefore, committed to

- Setting in place safeguards and measures to reduce the likelihood of abuse taking place within the services it organises or provides.
- Dealing swiftly and sensitively with any allegations or suspicions of abuse.
- Establishing a clear response when harm or abuse occurs outside the setting of the church but is then brought to the attention of a leader or other member of the church.

1.3. In addition to safeguarding people who attend, receive support or other input from the church, the Management Committee aims to provide a safe environment for its staff, volunteers and anyone involved in a leadership capacity in the church.

1.4. The Management Committee of The Bridge Church will ensure that all employees, volunteers or others in key leadership positions are aware of the contents and importance of this policy. Equally, those people in positions of trust have a duty to ensure that they are familiar with and will comply with this policy and its associated procedures.

1.5. Everyone involved in the running of the church or church-organised events has a duty to act on reports or suspicions of abuse or neglect. Therefore, any leader or volunteer who has concerns about potential abuse or neglect has a duty to pass them on appropriately.

1.6. The policy should be read in conjunction with other policies as they are developed relating to Health and Safety, Complaints and Incidents

2.Preventing and minimising abuse

2. 1 . The Safeguarding Lead for The Bridge is Christopher Fleetcroft

Tel: 01482 935233

Email: chrisfleetcroft@gmail.com.

The safeguarding lead will normally be the first point of contact for any matter regarding safeguarding in the church. The role of the safeguarding lead is described in further detail in Paragraph 4.

2.2 As a part of its commitment to providing a safe environment The Bridge has subscribed to '**Thirty One: Eight**' an independent support and advisory service for safeguarding. This organisation is able to provide professional information and advice concerning an individual case of concern or in regard to wider best practice in relation Safeguarding.

2.3 Whilst liaison with **Thirty One: Eight** will normally be the responsibility of the Safeguarding Lead, or other senior leader, Thirty One: Eight can be contacted by any member of the church regarding information, advice or help associated with a safeguarding matter appertaining to The Bridge.

Thirty One: Eight can be contacted on Tel 0303 003 1111

2.4 **Thirty One: Eight** will normally be consulted and will **always be notified** whenever an incident of suspected or actual abuse is found to have taken place.

2.5 Any matters relating to a Safeguarding event or concern will be regarded as a potentially serious incident and will be reported to the Management Committee of The Bridge at the earliest opportunity so that it may consider any further actions which may be required.

2.6 The Bridge Church is committed to safe recruitment policies and practices for paid staff, volunteers and trustees. This includes enhanced DBS disclosures (where required) for staff and volunteers, ensuring references are taken up and adequate training on Safeguarding Adults/children is provided for staff and volunteers.

2.7 Where staff members or volunteers are likely to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults they will be expected to provide two references and have an enhanced DBS disclosure.

2.8 The organisation will work within the current legal framework for reporting any staff or volunteers who are themselves involved in the commission of any acts of harm, neglect or abuse; and will notify the relevant authorities and Thirty One: Eight of any such concerns or events.

2.9 All staff and volunteers will be provided with training and information to enable them to develop the awareness, skills and abilities appropriate to their role within the organisation and responsibilities regarding Safeguarding; and will be provided with information regarding the church's safeguarding policies and procedures.

3.Types of Abuse

3.1 Abuse may include:

Physical abuse: e.g. hitting, slapping, punching, burning, misuse of medication and restraint

Psychological or Emotional abuse: e.g., persistent belittling, name calling, cyber bullying, humiliation, threats of abandonment, coercion, intimidation, isolation, harassment

Neglect and acts of omission: leaving in soiled clothes, ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs; failure to provide access to appropriate health, care, support or educational services; not meeting basic needs such as food, warmth and shelter

Sexual abuse-including rape, indecent assault, inappropriate touching, sexual photography and inappropriate looking, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, sexual teasing

Financial abuse, e.g. stealing, selling assets of a vulnerable person, fraud, coercion in relation to finances including wills, property, inheritance or transactions and misuse of possessions or benefits.

Domestic violence or abuse: control and coercion, psychological, physical, sexual, financial abuse and so called 'honour' based violence

Modern Slavery: forced labour and domestic servitude, human trafficking and coercing, deceiving or forcing someone into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment

Discriminatory abuse (including racist, sexist, based on a person's disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion and other forms of harassment)

Institutional abuse -involving e.g. organised and persistent bullying belittling, mistreatment or the misuse of power towards a dependent/vulnerable person

Organisational /Institutional abuse: neglect and poor care as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an institution, care setting, or by those providing care services in someone's own home.

Self-neglect: neglecting to care for personal hygiene, health or surroundings

3.2 Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly.

3.3 Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts. People who behave abusively may be relatives, friends, neighbours or people who use the same services as the person

experiencing the abuse. However, they may be professional workers, volunteers or other people holding a position of trust.

1. *Further description of the types and signs of abuse are described in Appendix 1*

4. The Safeguarding Lead: Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Organisations which work with children/ vulnerable adults are required to have in place a named person [safeguarding lead] who is responsible for dealing with any safeguarding issues that might arise.

4.2 The roles and responsibilities of the named person(s) are:

- To ensure that all staff, volunteers and trustees are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they have concerns that someone may be experiencing or has experienced abuse or neglect.
- To ensure that concerns are acted on, and clearly recorded.
- To follow up any referrals and ensure the issues have been addressed.
- To reinforce the utmost need for confidentiality and to ensure that staff and volunteers are adhering to good practice with regard to confidentiality and security.
- To ensure that staff and volunteers working directly with service users who have experienced abuse, or who are experiencing abuse, are well supported and receive appropriate supervision.
- To co-operate with any safeguarding investigation
- To ensure that disciplinary procedures are co-ordinated with any other enquiries taking place as part of the ongoing management of any allegation.
- To brief and update The Management Committee and other leaders of any key issues or developments appertaining to safeguarding issues.

5. Monitoring and Review

5.1 The Management Committee will include safeguarding routinely as a standing item on its agenda at its normal Committee meetings.

5.2 The Management committee will review this policy annually.

Approved by the Management Committee on 26 February 2026

Signed on Behalf of the Management Committee

Chris Fleetcroft (Chair)

PART TWO: PROCEDURES FOR ACTING UPON SUSPECTED OR ACTUAL INCIDENTS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT OR HARM.

1. The Bridge church has a duty to act on reports or suspicions of abuse or other harm to a child, young person or any vulnerable adult. ***Every church leader or volunteer who has a concern about potential abuse or neglect has a duty to pass that on to the Safeguarding lead in an appropriate and timely way OR take such other action as described herein this procedure.***

2. *In the event of a disclosure of abuse by an individual child, young person or adult the church leader or volunteer should do the following:-*

- Listen carefully to what the individual is saying.
- Reassure the person concerned.
- Clarify where possible **what happened** and **when it occurred**.
- Remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief.
- **Advise the person that you have a duty to share the information concerning any abuse with the safeguarding lead or the appropriate agencies (It cannot be kept secret) Refer to Appendix 2 for greater detail.**
- Tell the individual that the information will be treated seriously.
- Ask the individual what they need or want
- Record what you have been told/witnessed as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: *As a leader or volunteer in The Bridge your duty is NOT to investigate the alleged event but simply to reassure, clarify the information, report and record it. It is the duty of the Police and/or the Childrens/Adult Services to conduct any investigation.*

3. On being informed of actual or alleged abuse the Safeguarding Lead will:

- Liaise with Thirty One: Eight
- Make any further enquiries necessary.
- Consult as appropriate with the Local Authority's Childrens Services, Adult Services and/or Police.

4. Where the Safeguarding Lead is not available, you should either speak with another key leader or contact Thirty One Eight directly on Tel: 0303 003 1111. Option 2

5. ***In an emergency (i.e. the individual person has suffered severe injury or harm, is in imminent danger, or seems extremely likely to undergo severe and imminent harm then the emergency services should be contacted without delay by calling 999***

6.Key contacts

Safeguarding Lead : Chris Fleetcroft Tel: 01482 935233

Safeguarding Deputy : Shirley Waters Tel: 01482 632435

Thirty One: Eight Tel: 0303 003 1111. Option 2

East Riding of Yorkshire Childrens Services Tel: 01482 395500

East Riding of Yorkshire Adult Services Tel: 01482 396940

East Riding of Yorkshire Out of Hours services Tel: 01482 393939 or 07970156272

Humberside Police Tel 999 (in case of emergency) or Tel 112

7. Managing allegations made against a member of staff, other key leader or volunteer

7.1 All organisations that work with adults/Children need to ensure that they have procedures in place to deal with allegations of abuse by a member of staff, volunteer or trustee.

7.2 The Bridge will ensure that any allegations made against members or member of staff, volunteer or other key leader will be dealt with swiftly.

7.3 Where a member of staff/volunteer or other key leader is thought to have committed a criminal offence the police will be informed. If a crime has been witnessed the police should be contacted immediately.

The safety of the individual(s) concerned is paramount and it should be ensured that they are safe and away from the person(s) who are the alleged perpetrators.

8. Recording and managing confidential information

8.1 The Bridge will provide a place to record incidents, detailing what information needs to be collected.

8.2 Reassurance that this information will be kept in a secure location and only shared with those who need to know should be included.

8.3 However, there will be occasions when confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. The Bridge is committed to maintaining confidentiality wherever possible and information around Safeguarding Adults/Child issues should be shared only with those who need to know.

8.4 All allegations/disclosures/concerns should be recorded. The information should be factual and not based on opinions, record what the person tells you, what you have seen and witnesses if appropriate.

Approved.....

Date.....

RECOGNISING THE SIGNS OF ABUSE

(A): RECOGNISING POSSIBLE ABUSE OF CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE

Recognising child abuse is not easy, and it is **not** your responsibility to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place or if a child is significantly at risk. You do, however, have a responsibility to act if you have a concern.

Physical abuse

Most children will collect cuts and bruises in their daily life. These are likely to be in places where there are bony parts of their body, like elbows, knees and shins. Some children, however, will have bruising which can almost only have been caused non-accidentally. An important indicator of physical abuse is where bruises or injuries are unexplained or the explanation does not fit the injury, or when it appears on parts of the body where accidental injuries are unlikely, e.g. cheeks or thighs. A delay in seeking medical treatment when it is obviously necessary is also a cause for concern.

Bruising may be more or less noticeable on children with different skin tones or from different racial groups and specialist advice may need to be taken.

The physical signs of abuse may include:

- Unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body
- Bruising which reflects hand marks or fingers (from slapping or pinching)
- Cigarette burns
- Bite marks
- Broken bones
- Scalds

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate physical abuse:

- Fear of parents being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Reluctance to get changed, for example wearing long sleeves in hot weather
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Running away from home

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse can be hard to measure, and often children who appear to be well cared for may be emotionally abused by being taunted, put down or belittled. They may receive

little or no love from parents or carers. Emotional abuse can also take the form of children not being allowed to mix/play with other children.

The physical signs of emotional abuse may include:

- A failure to thrive or grow, particularly if the child puts on weight in other circumstances, e.g. hospital or away from parents' care
- Sudden speech disorders
- Developmental delay, either in terms of physical or emotional progress

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate emotional abuse include:

- Neurotic behaviour, e.g. hair twisting, rocking
- Being unable to play
- Fear of making mistakes
- Self harm
- Fear of parents being approached about their behaviour

Sexual abuse

Usually, in cases of sexual abuse it is the child's behaviour which causes you to become concerned, although physical signs can also be present. In all cases, children who talk about sexual abuse do so because they want it to stop. It is important, therefore, that they are listened to and taken seriously.

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

- Pain or itching in the genital/anal areas
- Bruising or bleeding near genital/anal areas
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Vaginal discharge or infection
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking or sitting down
- Pregnancy

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate sexual abuse include:

- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming aggressive or withdrawn
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- Having nightmares
- Running away from home
- Sexual knowledge which is beyond their age or development level
- Sexual drawings or language
- Bedwetting
- Eating problems such as overeating or anorexia
- Self harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- Saying they have secrets that they can't tell anyone about
- Substance or drug abuse

- Suddenly having unexplained sources of money
- Not allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence)
- Acting in a sexually explicit way towards adults

Neglect

Neglect can be a difficult form of abuse to recognise, yet have some of the most lasting and damaging effects on children.

The physical signs of neglect may include:

- Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other children
- Constantly dirty or 'smelly'
- Loss of weight, or being constantly underweight
- Inappropriate dress for the conditions

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate neglect may include:

- Complaining of being tired all the time
- Not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments
- Having few friends
- Mentioning their being left alone or unsupervised

The above list is not meant to be definitive but as a guide to assist you. It is important to remember that many children and young people will exhibit some of these indicators at some time, and the presence of one or more alone should not be taken as proof that abuse is occurring.

There may well be other reasons for changes in behaviour, such as death or the birth of a new baby in the family, relationship problems between their parents/carers etc.

Welfare of unborn babies

Concerns about the welfare of unborn babies should always be considered as part of this policy. Such concerns may relate to the excessive use of alcohol by the parent(s), to misuse of drugs, to domestic violence or to a past history of behaviour or very severe mental illness which has previously placed the parent, other children or other people at serious risk of harm or injury. It may relate to a current or repeated episode of severe mental illness or other behaviour which could place the unborn baby, the mother or other people at serious risk of harm or injury. Persistent negative statements about the unborn child or the expression of serious threats to its welfare during the stages of pregnancy should also be regarded as a cause for concern.

Some facts about abuse

- Most children are abused by adults they know and trust

- The reported cases of child abuse are just the tip of the iceberg of the cruelty, exploitation and neglect to which children in our society are subjected
- Disabled children are more vulnerable to abuse. They are more dependent on intimate care and sometimes less able to tell anyone or escape from abusive situations.
- Children very rarely make false accusations that they have been abused and in fact frequently deny the abuse or take back an accusation after they have made it
- Children who talk about the abuse fear the consequences of telling – if things are bad, perhaps they may get worse
- Children and young people who are abused can be very good at hiding their unhappiness and distress
- Abuse has serious long-term harm effects on children and young people. If untreated, the effects of abuse on children can be devastating and continue into adulthood
- Social Services will only remove children where there is actual, or a risk of, significant harm and if the child is in real danger of further abuse
- Child sexual abuse is equally as common among all social classes, professions, cultures and ethnic groups
- Child sex abuse is an abuse of power – it is an abuse of power adults have over children
- In most reported incidents of sexual abuse the abuser is someone known to the child
- It is not only men who sexually abuse children – women also abuse but the most commonly quoted figure is that around 90% of all child sex abuse is by men, most of whom are heterosexual
- A child is never to blame for sexual abuse
- There are rarely any obvious signs that a child has been sexually abused. Child abuse is very hard to 'diagnose', even for professionals
- The majority of calls to helplines from children relate to bullying
- If unchecked, bullying can be profoundly damaging to the victim in both the short and the longer term, emotionally, physically or both

- Bullying can leave children with feelings of worthlessness and self-hatred; of isolation and loneliness
- At its worst, bullying can result in a child attempting suicide
- Violence between parents (domestic violence) can have a profoundly diverse affect on children, causing intense anxiety, fear and occasionally physical injury
- Recent research has shown that children’s development can be adversely affected by serious parental mental illness without appropriate or effective treatment, and by problem alcohol or drug abuse

The document “What to Do if You Are Worried a Child is Being Abused” gives guidance to volunteers working with children. Please refer to this on www.dh.gov.uk.

(B): SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

Definition of a vulnerable adult/adult at risk

A vulnerable adult is someone who needs care and support (whether or not the local authority are meeting any of those needs), is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse and neglect.

Adult Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted. It includes, where appropriate, having regard in their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances- Care Act Statutory Guidance (2014, p230).

Physical abuse

Physical abuse – may include assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Other physical abuse indicators may include: -

- Unexplained or inappropriately explained injuries.
- Person exhibiting untypical self-harm.
- Unexplained cuts or scratches to mouth, lips, gums, eyes or external genitalia.

- Unexplained bruising to the face, torso, arms, back, buttocks, thighs in various stages of healing; collections of bruises that form regular patterns which correspond to the shape of an object or which appear on several areas of the body.
- Unexplained burns on unlikely areas of the body, e.g. soles of the feet, palms of the hands and back, immersion burns, rope burns, burns from an electrical appliance.
- Unexplained, or inappropriately explained fractures at various stages of healing to any part of the body.
- Medical problems that goes unattended.
- Sudden and unexplained urinary and/or faecal incontinence.
- Evidence of over/under medication.
- Person flinches at physical contact.
- Person appears frightened or subdued in the presence of particular people.
- Person asks not to be hurt/touched.
- Person may repeat what alleged abuser has said, e.g. 'shut up or I'll hit you'.
- Reluctance to undress or uncover part of the body.
- Person wears clothes that cover all parts of their body or specific parts of their body.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse – includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Indicators of sexual abuse may include : -

- Person has urinary tract infections, vaginal infections or sexually transmitted diseases that are not otherwise explained.
- Person appears unusually subdued, withdrawn or has poor concentration.
- Person exhibits significant changes in sexual behaviour or outlook/ conversation becomes overly sexual.
- Person experiences pain, itching or bleeding in the genital/anal area.
- Person's underclothing is torn, stained or bloody.
- A woman who lacks the mental capacity to consent to sexual intercourse becomes pregnant.
- Reluctance to undress or uncover part of the body.
- Person wears clothes that cover all parts of their body or specific parts of their body.
- Wearing extra layers of clothes.
- Nightmares/flashbacks.
- Soiling.
- Wetting.
- Self harm.

- Sudden onset of confusion.
- Eating disorders.

Psychological abuse

Psychological abuse – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

Indicators of Emotional/Psychological abuse may include

- Untypical ambivalence, deference, passivity, resignation.
- Person appears anxious or withdrawn, especially in the presence of the alleged abuser.
- Person exhibits low self-esteem.
- Person rejects their own cultural background and/or racial origin.
- Untypical changes in behaviour, e.g. continence problems, sleep disturbance, change in eating patterns.
- Person is not allowed visitors/phone calls.
- Person is locked in a room/in their home.
- Person is denied access to aids or equipment, e.g. glasses, dentures, hearing aid, crutches etc.
- Person's access to personal hygiene and toilet is restricted.
- Person's movement is restricted by use of furniture or other equipment.

Neglect

Neglect – including ignoring or denying the person's medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviour including neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings may include behaviour such as hoarding.

Other indicators of Neglect may include

- Person has inadequate heating and/or lighting.
- Person's physical condition/appearance is poor, e.g. ulcers, pressure sores, soiled or wet clothing.
- Person is malnourished, has sudden or continuous weight loss and/or is dehydrated.
- Person cannot access appropriate medication or medical care.
- Person is not afforded appropriate privacy or dignity.
- Person and/or a carer have inconsistent or reluctant contact with Health and Est Riding County Council.
- Callers/visitors are refused access to the person.
- Person is exposed to unacceptable risk.

Financial abuse

Financial abuse – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or

financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Indicators of Financial/Material Abuse may include

- Lack of money, especially after benefit payday.
- Inadequately explained withdrawals from accounts.
- Disparity between assets/income and living conditions.
- Power of Attorney obtained when the person lacks the capacity to make this decision.
- Recent changes of deeds/title of house.
- Service user not in control of their Direct Payments.
- Recent acquaintances expressing sudden or disproportionate interest in the person and their money.

Institutional or Organisational abuse

Institutional or Organisational abuse – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own 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.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse is 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim."*

(C): OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE

Modern slavery

Modern slavery – 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.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue, and hence interferes with the natural function of girls' and women's bodies. The practice causes severe pain and has several immediate and long-term health consequences, including difficulties in childbirth also causing dangers to the child

Forced Marriage

Forced Marriage is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties where duress is a factor. Forced marriage is a violation of human rights and is contrary to UK law (HM Gov, 2000).

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. (HM Government 2008).

Honour Based Violence

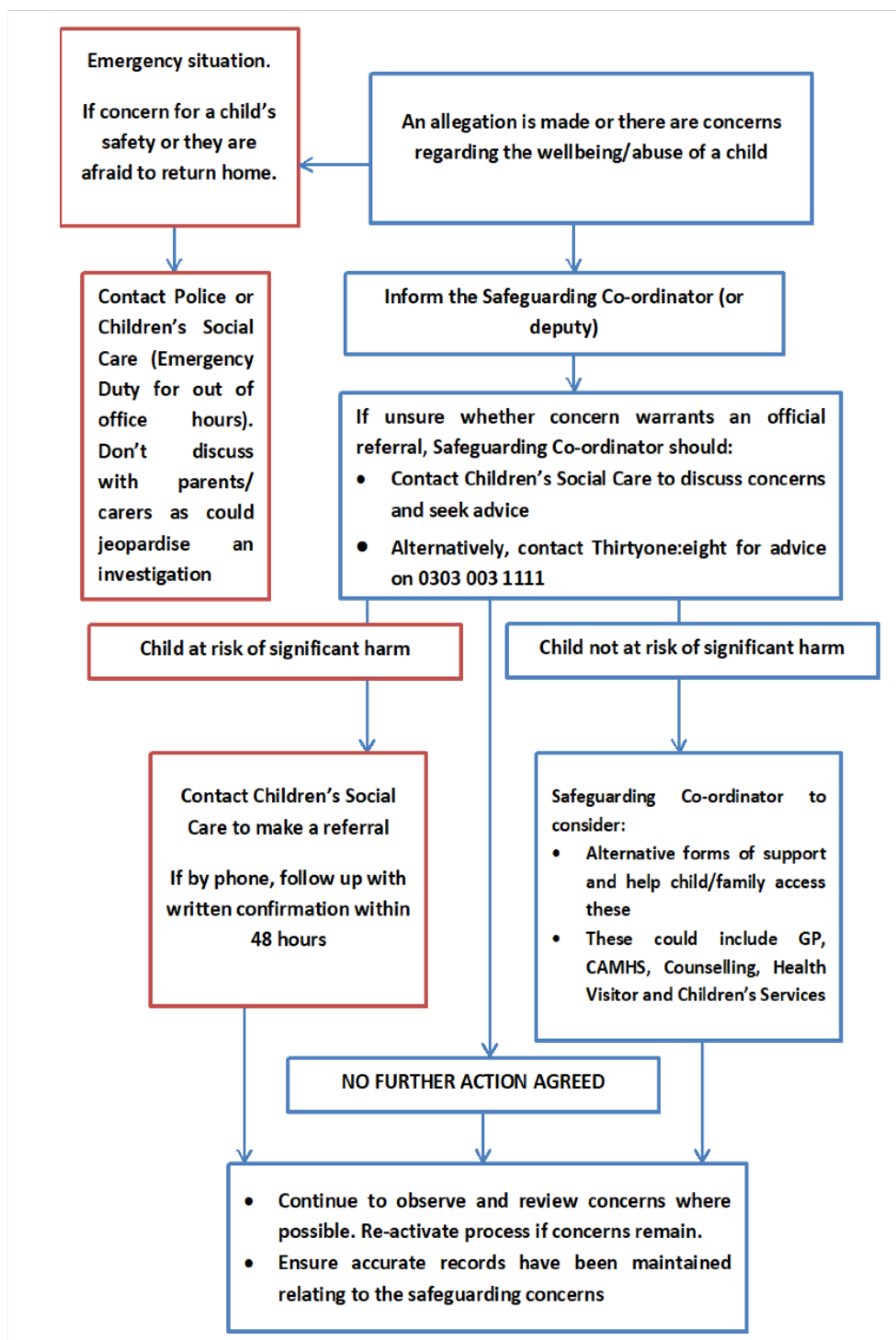
Honour Based Violence is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or 'community' .It is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and / or community by breaking their honour code.

Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of 'so called honour based violence', which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality. Honour Based Violence can be distinguished from other forms of violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members (ACPO & CPS, 2013).

Flowchart for Action Children and Young People



This flow chart provides an overview of action to be taken when concerned about the welfare of a child. It is to be used in conjunction with written procedures.



Working Together to Safeguard Children defines significant harm as:

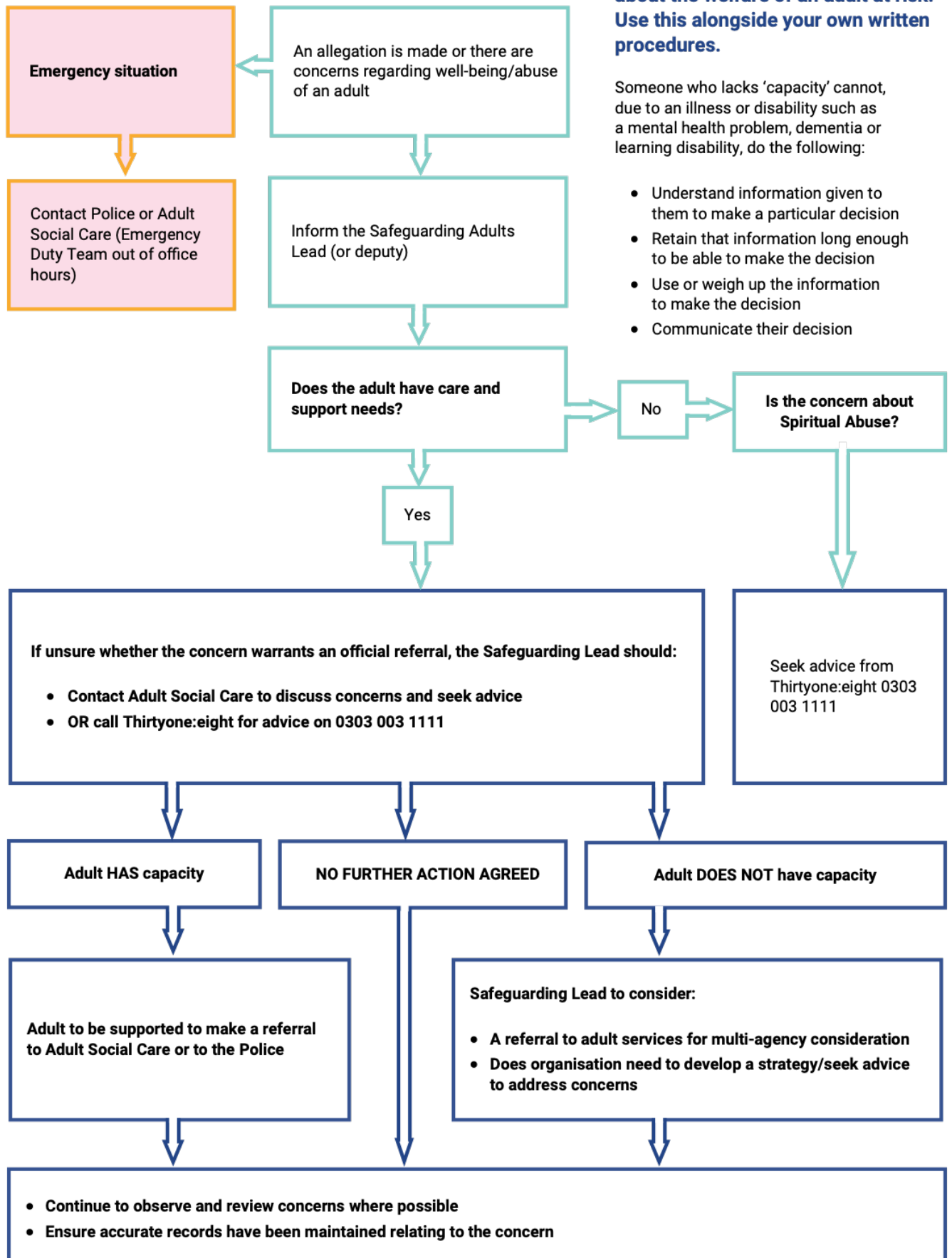
“... any Physical, Sexual, or Emotional Abuse, Neglect, accident or injury that is sufficiently serious to adversely affect progress and enjoyment of life. Harm is defined as the ill treatment or impairment of health and development.”

Action for Adults at risk flowchart

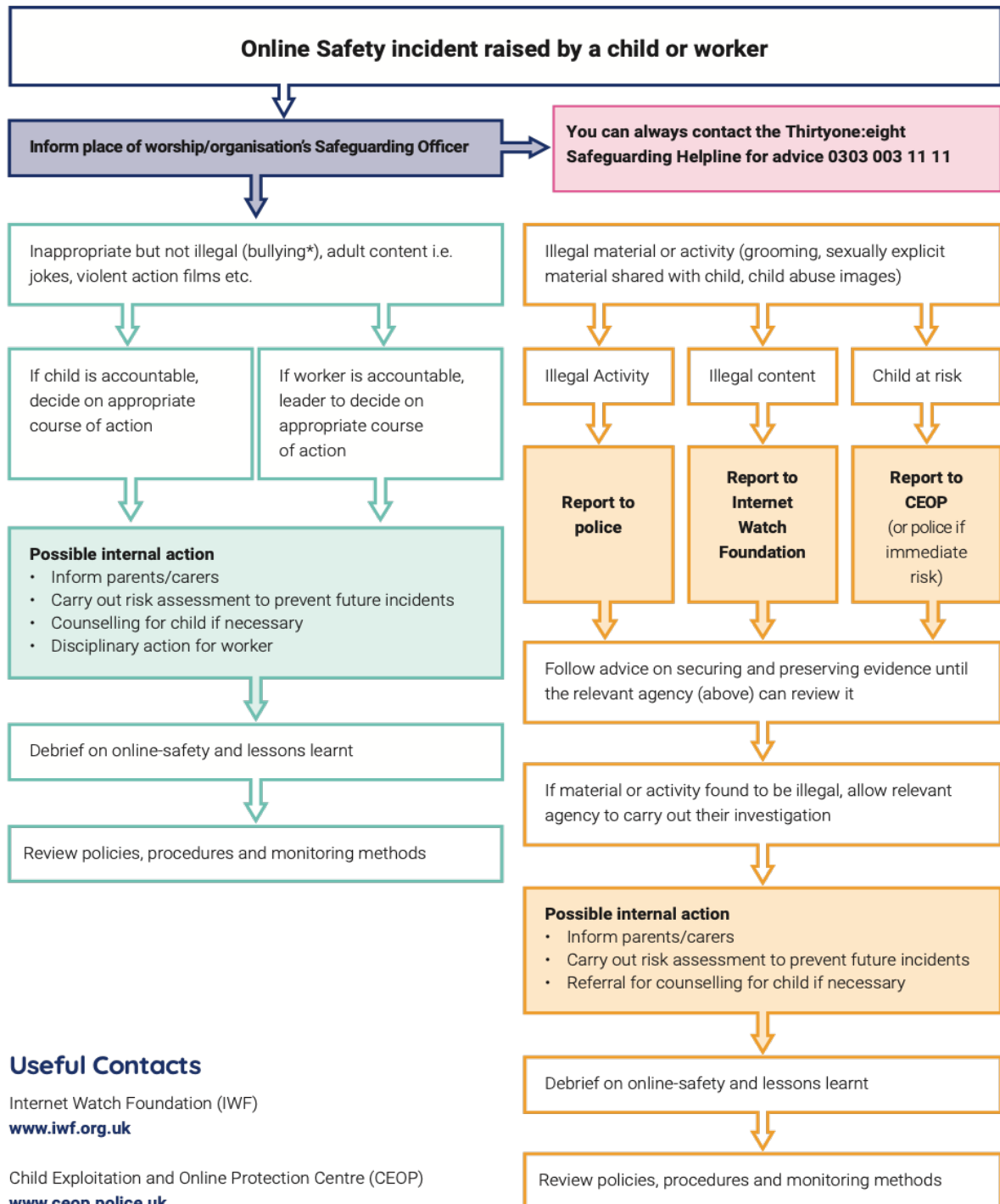
This flowchart gives an overview of action to be taken when concerned about the welfare of an adult at risk. Use this alongside your own written procedures.

Someone who lacks 'capacity' cannot, due to an illness or disability such as a mental health problem, dementia or learning disability, do the following:

- Understand information given to them to make a particular decision
- Retain that information long enough to be able to make the decision
- Use or weigh up the information to make the decision
- Communicate their decision



Online Safety Flowchart



Useful Contacts

Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
www.iwf.org.uk

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)
www.ceop.police.uk

(*) Some forms of bullying or content may be illegal – see Malicious Communications Act 1988, Obscene Publications Act. For extreme pornography – Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, etc.

Signposting to other useful organisations and Resources

The following organisations may be able to provide useful information, and in some cases direct support to the individual, their family or carers at a **post safeguarding investigation stage**. However, the **RELEVANT CONSENTS MUST ALWAYS BE OBTAINED BEFORE REFERRING AN INDIVIDUAL TO ANY OF THESE ORGANISATIONS.**

- Age UK: Age UK | The UK's leading charity helping every older person who needs us
- Andrew Hall Safeguarding Newsletter sign up: Safeguarding In Schools
- Ann Craft Trust: Ann Craft Trust: Safeguarding Adults at Risk
- Autism Together: Autism Together – Services for adults with autism and their loved ones
- Carers UK: Guides and tools | Carers UK
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection): CEOP Safety Centre
- Hourglass (safer ageing): Hourglass (wearehourglass.org)
- Hub of hope (signposting resource- services by postcode, UK wide):
Mental Health Support Network provided by Chasing the Stigma | Hub of hope
- Mencap: Learning Disability Support Services | Mencap
- Mental Health Foundation: Mental Health Foundation | Good mental health for all
- Mind: Home - Mind
- NACRO (supporting rehabilitation): We See Your Future, Whatever The Past | Nacro
- NSPCC CASPAR newsletter sign up: CASPAR | NSPCC Learning
- Rethink (Mental Illness Support): We are Rethink Mental Illness
- Samaritans: Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen
- SCIE (Social Care Institute of Excellence): Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
- Stop Child Witch Accusations: Stop Child Witch Accusations (stop- cwa.org)

- Stop It Now – Preventing Sexual Abuse of Children: Stop It Now! UK and Ireland | Preventing child sexual abuse
- Volunteer Now: Safeguarding Archives - Volunteer Now Safeguarding Children and Adults

Domestic Abuse:

Domestic Abuse Helpline: Home | Refuge National Domestic Abuse Helpline (nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

National Centre for Domestic Violence: Domestic Abuse Help · National Centre for Domestic Violence (ncdv.org.uk)

Refuge: Home - Refuge

Women's Aid: I need help - information and support on domestic abuse (womensaid.org.uk)

DAVE (Domestic Abuse Victim Empowerment) Male Victim Domestic Abuse Support – Dads Unlimited (dadsunltd.org.uk)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

NSPCC Information: Protecting children from female genital mutilation (FGM) | NSPCC Learning
National FGM Centre: www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk

Modern Slavery:

Anti-Slavery International: What is modern slavery? | Anti-Slavery International (antislavery.org)

Modern Slavery Helpline: Modern Slavery Helpline

The Clewer Initiative: The Clewer Initiative | The Clewer Initiative Unseen: Home - Unseen (unseenuk.org)

Trauma:

What is trauma? - Mind

UK Trauma Council (focus on supporting children and young people) Trauma | Mental Health Foundation

Trauma-informed practice: toolkit - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

What is Trauma Informed Practice? (safeguardingni.org)

Working definition of trauma-informed practice - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Thirtyone:eight Resources:

About 31:8 – Ten Standards:www.thirtyoneeight.org/about-us/who-we-are/our-10-standards/Safeguarding Children and Adults

Theology of Safeguarding:<https://thirtyoneeight.org/about-us/why-safeguarding/theology-of-safeguarding/>

Links to our help guides and practice guides:

www.thirtyoneeight.org/get-help/resources/help-guides/ www.thirtyoneeight.org/get-help/resources/practice-guides/ (member only access)

Find my training tool: <https://thirtyoneeight.org/what-training-do-i-need/>

Safeguarding Sunday: Safeguarding Sunday | Thirtyone:eight (thirtyoneeight.org)