



Domestic Abuse Policy

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting safer environments which:

- ☒ ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- ☒ work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse;
- ☒ recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- ☒ refuse to condone any form of abuse;
- ☒ enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- ☒ all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- ☒ all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- ☒ domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- ☒ domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- ☒ domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- ☒ working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will respond to domestic abuse:

In all our activities by –

- ☒ valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst appreciating the need to ensure a distance is kept between the two and refusing to condone the perpetration or continuation of any form of abuse.

In our publicity by –

- ☒ raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised by –

- ☒ ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- ☒ working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care by –

- ☒ ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- ☒ identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.