



**SOUTH CHINGFORD
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**SAFEGUARDING
POLICY & PROCEDURES**

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INTRODUCTION

We have a “duty of care” for all adults, young people and children with whom we are involved. We acknowledge that those under 18 years old have particular needs, as do adults with conditions limiting their mental or physical abilities. In addition, any person can be vulnerable in particular circumstances, such as when they are dependent on a welfare service or undergoing a crisis.

Safer recruitment processes are used for all our leaders and workers whether in paid or voluntary positions. This applies to all, from the Church Minister to the Kitchen Assistant.

All documents with personal data are kept securely and destroyed safely in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

Registers are kept and risk assessments made for all activities on the church premises and also for those activities held by the church at other venues or outside of any building.

In addition to adopting safe practice in every activity organised by, on or in the church we aim to ensure that the building, meeting rooms etc are safe and well maintained.

We ensure that fire and electrical equipment is regularly tested. If any meetings take place in a building other than the church’s own, we do the best we can to ascertain that these checks have been carried out.

As Christians, we would want to go further than this and say that we are responsible to God for the way we treat everyone. So we seek high standards because we want to, not just because we have to!

Taking good care is a never-ending process – so the church will review its procedures and documents at least once every 12 months. This document was last revised in February 2018.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purpose of this guide, the term ‘child’ refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from CCPAS (Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service):

‘Any adult aged 18 or over who due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation’.

SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR SOUTH CHINGFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Our vision

The mission of this church is to Seek, Save & Send – to make, equip and release followers of Jesus.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to help prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

The church has a Safeguarding Policy which sets out the expectations for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk, so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safe working practices**

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safe community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

REV. DAVE SIMMS, Pastor

Phone number: 020 8524 6753

Email address: pastor@chingfordcong.org.uk

GLORIA FINDLEY, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

Gloria will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number: 020 8529 2907

HAZEL SIMMS, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)

Hazel will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number: 020 8529 4165

Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the church entrance. A full copy of our policy is available in the church office, and is available on our church website (www.chingfordcong.org.uk).
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they have read them and will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

SECTION 2 - SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

These procedures set out how our safeguarding policy is implemented in all the services, groups and meetings that are part of the life of your church. These procedures apply to all activities, and in addition we have listed the particular procedures that are specific to individual groups taking place at the church.

Each trustee, church leader and worker (paid or voluntary) must be familiar with these procedures, and the Church will provide safeguarding training at least once every three years (or sooner if required) for all who work with children and adults at risk to ensure that they have the knowledge and confidence needed to deal with safeguarding issues as they arise.

The church's involvement falls into three categories:

a) The informal fellowship of people of different ages and capabilities in the worshipping community

Church members have a shared responsibility for all those attending worship and other all-age activities. No-one of any age but especially those under 18, elderly or in currently vulnerable circumstances, should be left in a dangerous situation. No person should be subjected to physical or verbal abuse, or inappropriate contact of any kind. All members have a responsibility to step in and challenge such behaviour, and to report it straight away to a church leader.

The church accepts a shared responsibility for all its children and young people, and undertakes to be diligent in their care and supervision.

The church accepts a shared responsibility for adults who share in its life, and is committed to developing an awareness of their needs and dignity.

b) Church groups

At present, these are:

Group	Leader
Children's Church	Charlotte Clarke
Share	Heather Upton
Food bank	Julia Adams
Wednesday prayer group	Albert Harrison
Bible study groups	Dave Simms

Holders of these positions are required to notify the leadership team in writing each time they wish to appoint an assistant leader or additional volunteers, so that the church can ensure that the necessary recruitment steps are taken.

c) Other groups/agencies using church premises

At present, these are:

Group	Leader
NHS Wheelchair fitting	
Shine Dance Academy	Sally Demir
Zumba classes	Michelle Demetriou
Dance Factory	Mandy Bolding

The church advises holders of the positions above that all work on its premises must meet the standards set down in this policy. The church ensures that rental agreements are supplied and amended as appropriate. The groups are advised to have sufficient insurance cover appropriate for the activity carried out on the church premises.

2.1 PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNISING, RESPONDING TO AND REPORTING ABUSE

2.1.1 What is abuse? Types of abuse and possible signs

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or adult at risk. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child or adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and adults at risk may be abused in a range of settings, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. There are many ways in which people suffer abuse.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates or induces illness in a child whom they are looking after.

Possible symptoms:

- Bruises
- Burns or scalds
- Bite marks
- Fractures or broken bones
- Other injuries or health problems (eg scarring, vomiting, drowsiness, respiratory problems).

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Possible symptoms:

- Staying away from certain people
- Displaying inappropriate sexual behaviour or awareness
- Physical symptoms (pain in intimate areas, STI, pregnancy)

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect the child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Possible symptoms:

- Poor appearance and hygiene
- Dirty or inadequate clothing
- Untreated injuries, medical or dental issues
- Recurring illness
- Poor communication or social skills

- Living in unsuitable accommodation
- Left alone for a long time
- Taking on the role of carer for other family members

Watch out for any unusual behaviour – for example if a child’s behaviour changes suddenly, they become withdrawn, anxious, clingy, depressed, aggressive, describe sleeping problems, changes attendance habits or eating habits, displays obsessive behaviour, substance misuse, self-harm, suicidal thoughts.

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more indicators is not in itself proof that abuse is taking place. There may be other reasons why any of the above are occurring. It is not your job to investigate or decide if something is abuse, only to report on what is observed.

2.1.1 What to do if Abuse is Suspected or Disclosed

Everyone has a part to play in helping to safeguard children and adults at risk within the life of the church:

- If the behaviour of a child or adult at risk gives any cause for concern
- If an allegation is made in any context about a child or adult at risk being harmed
- If the behaviour of any individual towards children or adults at risk causes concern

WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to be reassuring & remain calm. • Listen to and acknowledge what is being said. Accept what the person says, and take seriously what you are hearing. • Allow the person time to say what they want. Don’t interrupt them or ask any more questions than you need in order to establish whether there is cause for concern or to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said. • If you need to ask questions to clarify what someone is saying, always use open questions (eg. “Who is it you are afraid of?” not “Is it Daddy you are afraid of?”) • As soon as you believe there is cause for concern, allow the person to finish but do not question them any further. Explain that you will have to tell someone who knows what to do next. • If possible/appropriate, explain what will happen next and give an approximate timescale. • Be aware that a person may be frightened and that they may have been threatened not to tell anyone what has been happening to them. • Remember that most children feel loyalty to their parents and other significant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not promise confidentiality. • Do not show shock, alarm, disbelief or disapproval. • Do not minimise what is being said. • Do not ask probing or leading questions, or push for more information. • Do not offer false reassurance. • Do not delay in contacting the DPS. • Do not contact the alleged abuser. • Do not investigate the incident any further. • Never leave a child or adult at risk waiting to hear from someone without any idea of when or where that may be. • Do not pass on information to those who don't need to know; not even for prayer ministry.

people in their lives and often find it difficult to say things to their detriment.

- Make notes as soon as possible afterwards using the person's own words and recording any questions that you asked to prompt for a response.

2.1.2 Responding to Concerns

When there are concerns that a child, young person or adult is being abused, the following process must be followed. More detailed information can be found in **Appendix 2**.

STAGE 1 – The Worker

A worker/church attendee has a concern about the welfare of a child, adult at risk, or the behaviour of an individual.

The person who has the concern has a duty to:

RECOGNISE, RESPOND AND RECORD

A hand-written record must be made of the concern using an incident report form (**Appendix 3**) and the concern must be passed on to the church DPS within 24 hours.

The written record should: be made as soon as possible after the event; be legible; include the name, date of birth and address of the child or adult at risk; include the nature of any concerns and description of any bruising or injuries that have been noticed; include an exact record of what the child or adult at risk has said, using their own words where possible; include any action taken; be signed and dated; be kept secure and confidential (available only to those responsible for safeguarding). **If the person is in imminent danger of harm a referral should be made to the police or Social Services without delay.**

STAGE 2 – The Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

The DPS receives the report of concern and then has a duty to:

REVIEW AND REFER

The report will be reviewed by the DPS with any other relevant information and a decision will be taken (often in liaison with others) as to what action should follow. See **appendix 2** for examples of possible actions. Any formal referral to the police or Social Services should normally be made within 24 hours of receiving the report. **If the person is in imminent danger of harm a referral should be made to the police or Social Services without delay.**

The Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact should be made aware of any referrals to the statutory authorities.

STAGE 3 – The Next Steps

After the decision has been made as to what action should be taken, the DPS, Safeguarding Trustee and the Minister may have a duty to:

SUPPORT AND REPORT

Support should be offered to all parties affected by any safeguarding concerns (this could be the church as a whole, but more specifically victims; alleged perpetrators; children; adults at risk; other family members; church workers; the DPS; Minister; members of the leadership team.

Where formal referrals are made, reports may need to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the Charity Commission etc.

If the DPS is not available, or is implicated in the situation, any reports or concerns should be passed to another member of the church Safeguarding Team.

If you think that anyone is in imminent danger of harm, a report should be made immediately to the police by calling 999.

2.1.3 Responding to Concerns Raised about Adults at Risk

When a concern is raised about an adult it should be treated in the same way as a concern about a child ie the church worker (paid or voluntary) should:

- 1) **Recognise** that abuse may be taking place
- 2) **Respond** to the concern
- 3) **Record** all the information they have received
- 4) **Report** the concern to the DPS who may, in turn, report it to the statutory authorities

It is not your role to decide whether someone has mental capacity, and is therefore able to make decisions that impact on their safety and well-being. Decisions on mental capacity are best made by professionals with the relevant background information to hand. Always share your concerns with the DPS even if you do not have the consent of the adult to do so – in this instance, make sure the DPS knows that the person concerned has not given consent for the information to be passed on.

The Care Act 2014 provides helpful guidance on these situations:

“If the adult has the mental capacity to make informed decisions about their safety and they do not want any action to be taken, this does not preclude the sharing of information with relevant professional colleagues. This is to enable professionals to assess the risk of harm and to be confident that the adult is not being unduly influenced, coerced or intimidated and is aware of all the options. This will also enable professionals to check the safety and validity of decisions made. It is good practice to inform the adult that this action is being taken unless doing so would increase the risk of harm”.

The DPS will consider all the information to hand and decide whether it is appropriate for the information to be reported to the statutory authorities (see **appendix 2** for further information). If there are any concerns about an adult's mental capacity, the DPS will contact the Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Team for advice.

2.1.4 Allegations Against Workers

If you see a worker acting in ways which concern you or might be misconstrued, speak to the DPS about your concerns as soon as you can. This includes the actions or behaviours of those in leadership positions in the church.

Church workers should encourage an atmosphere of mutual accountability, holding each other to the highest standards of safeguarding practice. The following procedure should be followed:

- 1) When an allegation of abuse has been made do not approach the alleged perpetrator about it
- 2) Follow the usual safeguarding procedure: **Recognise, Respond, Record, Report**
- 3) Once the allegation has been reported to the DPS they can liaise with the relevant statutory authority
- 4) Whilst waiting for an outcome from the statutory authorities, the worker about whom concerns have been raised will be supervised as closely as possible, without raising suspicion
- 5) Once the statutory authorities are involved, the church will follow their advice with regard to the next steps to take (for example, suspension of worker, putting a contract in place)
- 6) A written record of all discussions with statutory authorities or other parties should be maintained by the DPS and stored securely and confidentially, where only those directly involved in safeguarding (DPS, Safeguarding Trustee, Minister) can access them.
- 7) No information about the allegation will be shared with people in the church other than those directly involved in safeguarding; not even for prayer purposes.

The suspension of a worker following an allegation is, by definition, a neutral act. Our priority as a church is to protect children and adults at risk from possible further abuse or from being influenced in any way by the alleged perpetrator.

It may be necessary, for the sake of the child / adult at risk or to satisfy the needs of an investigation, for the alleged perpetrator to worship elsewhere. In such cases the new church DPS will be informed of the reasons for this happening.

When concerns are expressed about the Minister

Any safeguarding concerns involving a Minister should always be reported immediately to the Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact in addition to following the church's usual procedures. Do not tell the Minister that a concern has been raised about them.

When concerns are expressed about the church DPS / Safeguarding Trustee

Any safeguarding concerns involving the DPS or Safeguarding Trustee should be raised with the Minister. Do not tell the DPS / Safeguarding Trustee that a concern has been raised about them.

2.1.5 Abuse of Trust

Relationships between children and adults at risk and their church workers can be described as 'relationships of trust'. The worker is someone in whom the child or adult at risk has placed a degree of trust. This may be because the worker has an educational role, is a provider of activities, or is even a significant adult friend. It is not acceptable for a church worker to form a romantic relationship with a child or adult at risk with whom they have a relationship of trust.

While by no means restricted to young leaders, those who are in their early adult years will need to be particularly aware of the need not to abuse their position of trust in their relationships with other young people who are not much younger than themselves.

2.1.6 Allegations Made Against Children and Adults at Risk

Children and young people are by nature curious about the opposite sex. However, where a child is in a position of power, has responsibility over another child (as in a babysitting arrangement) and abuses that trust through some sexual activity, then this is abusive. Where one child introduces another child to age-inappropriate sexual activity or forces themselves onto a child, this is abusive. Such situations will be taken as seriously as if an adult were involved, because the effects on the child victim can be as great.

When such an instance occurs, they are investigated by the statutory authorities in the same way as if an adult were involved, though it is likely that the perpetrator would also be regarded as a victim in their own right, as they may have also been abused. It cannot be assumed that young people will grow out of this type of behaviour, as most adult sex offenders started abusing in their teens or even younger.

Allegations against adults at risk will be investigated by the statutory authorities. If the alleged perpetrator is unable to understand the significance of questions put to them or their replies, they can access support from an 'appropriate' adult whilst they are being questioned. This role can be filled by a range of people, such as a family member, carer, social worker, etc. In court, adults at risk may be allowed to be assisted by an intermediary or give evidence through a live link.

When an allegation is made against a child or adult at risk the following procedure should be followed:

- 1) Do not approach the person about whom the allegation has been made or their parents / carers

- 2) Follow the church's safeguarding procedure: **Recognise, Respond, Record, Report**
- 3) Seek advice from the DPS, who will speak to the police or social services about when to inform a parent. The DPS will also seek advice about what steps need to be taken to ensure the needs of both the victim and alleged perpetrator are met; this may include placing the child or adult at risk on a Safeguarding Contract or equivalent (see section 3.4: Safer Community / Working with Alleged or Known Offenders)
- 4) Make sure there is pastoral support in place for the child or adult at risk throughout the process involved.

2.1.7 Pastoral Care

Following an allegation / suspicion

When an allegation/suspicion arises in the church, a period of investigation will follow, which will be stressful for all involved. The church will ensure that one person is responsible for dealing with the authorities, another offers support to the victim/s and their family, and another gives pastoral care to the alleged perpetrator, without compromising the alleged victims or their families. It may be necessary to appoint other people to support the families involved.

Where a statutory investigation is under way, this support will be provided with the knowledge of the statutory authority involved.

Where the perpetrator accepts some responsibility, they will be encouraged to seek specialised interventions/treatment to reduce the risk of re-offending. This may only be appropriate once the investigation and legal processes have been completed.

Supporting those who have experienced abuse

As a church, we are committed to caring for those who have experienced abuse and seek to ensure that we adhere to a model of best practice.

We recognise it is important that those who have experienced abuse:

- Are accepted for who they are, without being made to forgive or being put into a position of feeling guilty and responsible for what happened to them.
- Know that God loves them unconditionally, and that nothing can or will change this truth.
- Can be confident that those in the church community who know about the abuse are with them on their journey – no matter how long or difficult that journey may be.

It may be necessary to signpost individuals to specialist support. The Minister has a list of relevant local information and contacts, ready for anyone who may need it.

2.2 SAFER RECRUITMENT

As a church, we are committed to safer recruitment practices. When recruiting both paid and volunteer church workers, the following process will be applied:

- 1) We will develop a clear role profile, person specification and application form;
- 2) When advertising a role which involves working with children or adults at risk we will make it clear that any appointment is subject to a DBS check;
- 3) Everyone wishing to work in a paid or voluntary role within the church must complete a Local Workers Form (LWF/CF15 – see appendix 4);
- 4) Shortlisting of applicants will be carried out by at least two people, including the line manager or group leader directly overseeing the role being recruited for;
- 5) Interviews will be carried out by at least two people, including the line manager or group leader;
- 6) References, a Self Disclosure Form and an enhanced DBS check must be completed satisfactorily before the appointed person starts in their role.
- 7) All roles are subject to a probationary period (usually six months unless otherwise specified).

Note: Under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, it is an offence for anyone disqualified from working with children or adults at risk to knowingly apply, accept or offer to work with children or adults at risk. It is also a criminal offence to knowingly offer work with children or adults at risk to an individual who is so disqualified or to knowingly allow such an individual to continue to work with children or adults at risk.

DBS checks

The DBS certificate is the property of the applicant however they are required to show the DPS their certificate on its receipt. Details that may affect the role to which they wish to be appointed are noted and acted upon. This may mean that they are unable to take up the role applied for. The date for renewal is noted for church records. Copies should not be taken or kept by the church.

Barred List Check for Children & Adults (includes Enhanced Check)	Any Minister, Pastor or church ministry leader Any retired minister or pastor still engaged in church work
Barred List Check for Children (includes Enhanced Check)	Leaders/supervisors of people regularly working with children People transporting children on behalf of the church
Barred List Check for Adults (includes Enhanced Check)	Leaders/supervisors of people working with adults People transporting adults on behalf of the church to hospital/health care providers Visitors authorised by the church who undertake assistance with shopping, bills etc
Enhanced Checks only	The leaders of groups or activities which involve children or young people under 18 on a regular basis The leaders of groups or activities which involve adults on the church premises Document checkers with a safeguarding role
Self disclosure only (annual) along with LWF & references	Helpers in any group who are supervised at all times Document checkers without additional safeguarding role
DBS certificate issued by a third party	Regular visiting worship leaders from other churches undertaking no pastoral duties are asked for evidence of a disclosure certificate.

The church appoints **Gloria Findley** as its document checker/protection verifier. The primary role of a Protection Verifier is to establish the identity of an applicant for a disclosure certificate on behalf of the Congregational

Federation's registered body, Due Diligence Checking (DDC). In Gloria's absence, **Dave Simms** is also able to carry out these checks and submit disclosure applications.

Additional checks for paid workers

In addition to the above checks which should be completed for both paid and volunteer church workers, an applicant's UK residency status and/ or right to work in the UK will be checked when recruiting for a paid role.

References

Formal written references will be required for all posts, ideally in the form of at least one professional and one personal reference

Appointment and Supervision

The church's safeguarding policy and procedures will be discussed with the applicant and they will be required to sign their agreement to adhere to them. All workers will have a role description and clear lines of accountability to a leader and the leadership team.

Paid workers will also have an assigned supervisor whom they will meet with regularly to discuss work and address any issues or areas of concern. There will be a probationary period of six months in the role before any paid appointment is confirmed.

There will also be regular team meetings to review procedures, share concerns and identify other matters that may need clarification and guidance.

Training

It is important that all workers understand our church's agreed safeguarding procedures and attend safeguarding training at least once every three years. Additional specialist training will also be arranged where needed, for example, in First Aid.

Young leaders under 18 years of age

In law, young leaders under the age of 18 are children and cannot be treated as adult members of a team. Training and mentoring will be given to ensure that they are helped to develop and hone their skills, attitudes and experience. Young leaders must always be closely supervised by an adult leader and never given sole responsibility for a group of children. When considering ratios of staff to children, young leaders need to be counted as children, not leaders. The safeguarding procedures apply to a young leader just as they do to any other person. Parent / carer permission needs to be sought for young leaders just as you would for any other person under 18 years of age.

2.3 SAFER BEHAVIOUR

The church has a code of behaviour for all those working with children and/or adults at risk so that everyone is shown the respect that is due to them:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Use age and ability appropriate language and tone of voice. Be aware of your body language and the effect you are having on the child or adult at risk.
- Listen well to everyone. Be careful not to assume you know what a child or adult at risk is thinking or feeling. Listen to what is being spoken and how it is said. At the same time, observe the individual's body language to better understand what is being said.
- Be aware of any physical contact you may have with a child or adult at risk and record it when necessary. For instance, if you need to stop a fight, administer First Aid, give a hug to someone in distress, or protect yourself or others from danger.
- Do not make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child or adult at risk, even in 'fun'.
- Do not scapegoat, belittle, ridicule or reject a child or adult at risk.
- Keep a record of any significant incidents or concerns on a Safeguarding Incident Form (see **Appendix 3**). Enter the names of all those present and anything of note which you observe, e.g. details of any fights broken up by the workers, allegations made, etc. All workers who witnessed the incident, overheard it or responded in any way should record the details and sign and date the form.

Specific considerations when working with children:

- Do not invade the privacy of children when they are using the toilet or showering
- The level of assistance with personal care (eg. toileting) must be appropriate and related to the age of the child, whilst also accepting that some children have special needs.
- Avoid rough games involving physical contact between a worker and a child
- Avoid sexually provocative games
- When it is necessary to discipline children, this should be done without using physical punishment. There may, however, on the rare occasion be circumstances where a child needs to be restrained in order to protect them or a third person. This must always be reported to the DPS immediately.
- Only invite children and young people to your home or on trips in groups and always make sure that another worker is present.
- Notify the DPS of any children's trips which take place in the name of the church. Parental permission must always be sought.
- Do not give lifts to children or young people on your own. Ensure that if transporting children as part of your church role, you have the correct insurance cover in place as well as parental permission.
- No person under 18 years of age should be left in sole charge of any children of any age. Nor should children or young people attending a group be left alone at any time.

No one should normally be left working alone with children, young people or adults at risk, but should instead work as part of a team. If there are insufficient leaders for groups:

- Internal doors should be left open.
- At least two people should be present before external doors are opened for an event.
- Consider whether you could combine groups together or rearrange planned activities.
- Reconsider whether you can run the group safely, carrying out a Risk Assessment to record your findings.

If workers do find themselves on their own with children or adults at risk, they should:

- Assess the risk of sending the child or adult at risk home.
- Phone another team member and let them know the situation.
- Train additional leaders as soon as possible.

If a child or adult at risk wants to talk on a one-to-one basis you should make sure that:

- You try to hold the conversation in a corner of a room where other people are present.
- You leave the door open if you are in a room on your own.
- Another team member knows where you are.

Consideration should be given to how many workers should be involved with the group and whether they should be male or female workers, or both. See **section 3.1.1** for recommended ratios. The only adults allowed to participate in children's and adult at risk activities are those safely appointed and appropriately trained. The leader of the activity should be aware of any other adults who are in the building whilst the activity is running.

SECTION 3 - BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The church is in an amazing position in society, with the opportunity to minister to individuals from the whole community, from the very young to the very old. These best practice guidelines are in place to help those working on behalf of the church to do it well, prioritising the safety and well-being of those they are working with. Whilst this section is divided into adults and children, some aspects of good practice will overlap.

3.1 – WORKING WITH CHILDREN

3.1.1 Ratios

When working with children the following recommended minimum ratios of workers to children apply:

Age range	Recommended minimum ratio for INDOOR activities	Recommended minimum ratio for OUTDOOR activities
0 – 2 years	1:3 (minimum 2)	1:3 (minimum 2)
3 years	1:4 (minimum 2)	1:4 (minimum 2)
4 – 7 years	1:8 (minimum 2)	1:6 (minimum 2)
8 – 12 years	2 adults for up to 20 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children	2 adults for up to 15 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 8 additional children
13 years and over	2 adults for up to 20 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children	2 adults for up to 20 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children

This does not take into account special circumstances such as behavioural issues, developmental issues, disability and so on, which may mean an increase to the recommended ratios. In calculating the ratios of workers to children, young leaders who are under the age of 18 should be counted as one of the children, not one of the workers.

3.1.2 Children with Special Needs

Children and young people who have a disability can be at greater risk of abuse. They will often require more help with personal care, such as washing, dressing, toileting, feeding, mobility, etc. Some children may have limited understanding and behave in a non-age-appropriate way. It is good practice to speak with the parents/carers of children/young people with special needs and find out from them how best to assist the child or young person.

3.1.3 Visiting Children or Young People at Home

It is unlikely that workers will need to make pastoral visits to children and their families at home on behalf of the church. If a situation occurs where it is needed then it should be done in pairs, and with the prior agreement of the Minister.

3.1.4 Children with no adult supervision

When children turn up to and want to join in with church activities without the knowledge of their parents/carers, workers will:

- Welcome the child and try to establish their name, age, address and telephone number.
- Record their visit in a register.
- Ask the child if a parent/carer is aware of where they are. Where possible, phone and make contact.
- Without interrogating the child, find out as soon as possible whether they have any specific needs (eg. medication) so that you can respond appropriately in an emergency.
- Give the child a consent form and explain it needs to be filled in and brought back next time.

3.1.5 Mentoring

If a worker is working with a young person as part of the recognised church mentoring programme:

- The parents of all young people involved in mentoring are required to sign a letter to say they are aware that the mentoring is happening and who it is with.
- Mentoring meetings should only be held in agreed places, and should be in view of other people.
- A mentoring meeting should have an agreed start and end time and someone should be aware that a meeting is taking place and where it is being held.
- A basic record should be kept of dates of significant meetings and any text messages or emails.
- Appropriate boundaries should be put in place in regard to times and demand, ie not phoning or texting late at night, etc.
- A written record should be kept of issues/decisions discussed at meetings.

3.1.6 Peer Group Activities for Young People

All youth activities will be overseen by named adults who have been selected in accordance with safer recruitment procedures. It is accepted that groups aged 16+ may benefit from being led and run by peers. In this situation, adult leaders will contribute to programme planning and reviews and will always be present to oversee any peer-led activities taking place.

3.1.7 Physical Contact

- Keep everything public. A hug within a group context is very different from one behind closed doors.
- Touch should be related to the child's needs, not the worker's.
- Touch should be age-appropriate and generally initiated by the child rather than the worker.
- Workers should avoid any physical activity that is, or may be thought to be, sexually stimulating to the adult or the child.
- Children are entitled to privacy to ensure their personal dignity.
- Children have the right to decide how much physical contact they have with others, except in exceptional circumstances such as when they need medical attention.
- When giving first aid (or applying sun cream, etc), workers should encourage the child to do what they can manage themselves, but consider the child's best interests and give appropriate help where necessary.
- Team members should monitor one another in the area of physical contact. They should help each other by constructively challenging anything which could be misunderstood or misconstrued.

3.1.8 Electronic Communications - Cyber Safety

Modern Technologies and Safe Communication

A worker's role description will include an acknowledgement and approval of technologies such as email, social networking and mobile phone communications as a legitimate means of communicating with young people. It should also include the expectations of the church in relation to their use. On the general consent form, parents/carers sign to agree that the young person can receive such communications.

Young people also need to be aware of the protocols that workers follow in relation to electronic communications. It is important to remember that as well as the parent/carer, young people have a right to decide whether they want a worker to have their contact details and should not be pressurised otherwise.

It is not appropriate to use these communication methods with children aged 11 years and younger.

Email

Email should be limited to sharing generic information, for example, to remind young people about meetings. If email is being used, workers will ensure that they are accountable by copying each message to a designated email

address (pastor@chingfordcong.org.uk). It is important workers use clear and unambiguous language to reduce the risk of misinterpretation, for example, avoiding inappropriate terms such as 'love' when ending an email.

Communicating using Instant Messaging (eg. Snapchat, Whatsapp, Instagram)

Instant messaging should be kept to an absolute minimum. Workers should save significant conversations and keep a log stating with whom and when they communicated.

Mobile Phones

Workers need to take care in using mobile phones to communicate with young people:

- Mobile phone use should primarily be for the purposes of information sharing.
- Workers should keep a log of significant conversations/texts.
- Any texts or conversations that raise concerns should be passed on to the worker's supervisor.
- Workers should use clear language and should not use abbreviations like 'lol' which could mean 'laugh out loud' or 'lots of love'.
- Workers should not take photos of children, young people or adults at risk unless permission is sought in advance and should not store such photos on personal phones.

Social Networking

- Workers should have a site that is used solely for children's / youth work communications and is totally separate from their own personal site. This is to ensure that all communication with children and young people is kept within public domains.
- Workers should not send private messages to children on social networks. Workers should ensure that all communications are transparent and open to scrutiny.
- Workers should not accept 'friend' or 'following' requests from children on their personal site, nor seek to be 'friends' or a 'follower' of any child known to them in a church context.

Taking Videos and Photographs of Children

- Permission must be obtained, via the consent form, of all children who will appear in a photograph or video before the photograph is taken or footage recorded.
- It must be made clear why that person's image is being used, what you will be using it for, and who might want to look at the pictures.
- If images are being taken at an event attended by large crowds, such as a sports event, this is regarded as a public area and permission from a crowd is not necessary.
- Many uses of photographs are not covered by the Data Protection Act 1998, including all photographs and video recordings made for personal use, such as a parent/carer taking photographs at school sports days or videoing a church nativity play. However, parents are asked not to share or upload pictures or footage involving other children to social media.
- Children and young people under the age of 18 should not be identified by surname or other personal details, including email, postal address or telephone number.
- When using photographs of children and young people, it is preferable to use group pictures.
- Children and young people must be dressed appropriately and taking part in normal group activities.

3.2 WORKING WITH ADULTS AT RISK

3.2.1 Premises

The church building will be made as accessible as possible to all people. Any restrictions to access, visibility, audibility, toilet facilities, lighting or heating will be addressed wherever possible, and where necessary, aids and adaptations put in place.

3.2.2 Language

Every effort will be taken to use appropriate language and suitable vocabulary, enabling the greatest level of inclusivity and accessibility. We will be mindful of the language used within worship and the language used to describe people (such as derogatory words focusing on aspects of someone's disability, race or sexuality rather than the person themselves).

3.2.3 Worship

In all worship services, we will consider the varied requirements of our congregation and try to be as inclusive as possible, by:

- Providing some copies of large print type for all printed materials
- Speakers always facing the congregation and not covering their mouths when talking, enabling those who rely on lip-reading
- Describing what is being presented on a screen for those who cannot see it clearly
- Using inclusive language
- Using a variety of liturgy and resources to cater for different levels of understanding
- Using a microphone during times of open prayer so that all can hear

3.2.4 Insurance

We will take reasonable steps to safeguard adults at risk and will follow any specific safeguarding requirements as laid out by our insurance company.

3.2.5 Financial integrity

Arrangements are in place for dealing with money, financial transactions and gifts, as outlined below:

- Those who work with adults at risk may become involved in some aspects of personal finance - collecting pensions or benefits, shopping or banking, etc. If handling money for someone else, always obtain receipts or other evidence of what has been done.
- Workers should not seek personal financial gain from their position beyond any salary or recognised allowances or expenses.
- Workers should not be influenced by offers of money.
- Any gifts received should be reported to the church trustees, who should decide whether or not the gift can be accepted.
- Any money received by the church should be handled by two unrelated church workers.
- Care should be taken not to canvass for church donations from those adults who may be at risk, such as the recently bereaved.
- Workers should ensure that church and personal finances are kept apart to avoid any conflict of interest.
- If someone alters their will in favour of an individual known to them because of their church work or pastoral relationship, it should be reported to the trustees. Workers should not act as Executors for someone they know through their work or pastoral role, as this may lead to a conflict of interests.
- Expert legal advice should be sought on matters such as Power of Attorney and Appointeeship to ensure that the situation is clearly understood and is the most appropriate course of action for the adult at risk.

3.2.6 Photographs

Workers should make sure that they have the person's permission to take a picture, and that the subject is happy with the intended use of the pictures. When taking group pictures, workers should remember to get permission from everyone who will be photographed.

3.2.7 Computers

All church computers will have suitable parental controls and blocks put on. Although this is not failsafe, it will make using the computers for inappropriate behaviour more difficult, whilst also protecting any vulnerable users. We will create a policy specifically for church computer use, including terms and conditions for use as well as what will happen if someone breaches these conditions.

3.2.8 Record keeping

It is good practice to record pastoral visits or meetings, noting the date, time, location, subject and any actions which are to be taken. The record of these meetings should stick to facts and try to avoid opinion. Any records of safeguarding allegations, concerns or disclosures should be passed on to the DPS and stored in a safe and secure manner, as per the guidance on retention periods below:

Type of record	Retention
Safeguarding concerns that the church reports to social services or the police	The referral should be acknowledged in writing by social services – this should be kept on file. Records should be kept for 6 years after the last contact with the individual, unless any of the legal exemptions apply.
Safeguarding concerns that the church decides, after consultation, do not necessitate a referral to social services or the police (make a record of the concern and the outcome)	The record should be destroyed one year after the individual concerned ceases to use our groups or be part of the church.
Safeguarding concerns about workers (paid and volunteer). Record concerns and action taken.	Records should be retained until the adult reaches normal retirement age, or for 10 years if that is longer.
Disclosure certificates obtained as part of the vetting process	The actual disclosure form must be destroyed after 6 months. However, a record must be kept of the date of the check, the reference number, the decision about vetting and the outcome (see appendix 5).

3.2.9 Pastoral Relationships

All those involved in pastoral ministry should work in a way that follows clearly defined procedures, which set out the boundaries to protect those carrying out the pastoral ministry as well as those receiving it:

- Workers should be aware of the power imbalance within pastoral relationships and the potential for abuse of trust.
- Behaviour that suggests favouritism or gives the impression of a special relationship, should be avoided.
- Workers should be aware of the dangers of dependency within a pastoral relationship.
- Workers should never take advantage of their role and engage in sexual activity with someone with whom they have a pastoral relationship.
- All people receiving pastoral ministry should be treated with respect and should be encouraged to make their own decisions about any actions or outcomes.
- Workers should not pastorally minister to anyone whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Workers need to recognise the limits of their own abilities and competencies, and get further help when working with situations outside of their expertise or role.

3.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY - Safe Practice and Safe Premises

3.3.1 Consent forms

It is essential that we have important information about all children and young people involved in any activities at the church, which is recorded on our consent forms. The first week someone attends workers must record their

name, medical emergency information and a contact name and number. Then they must bring their completed form back with them. Consent forms are to be renewed annually to ensure all details are up to date. Similar details will be gathered for adults at risk.

3.3.2 Health and Safety

All activities for children, young people and adults at risk will comply with the church's current health and safety policy. Particular attention is paid to the areas of Fire safety, First Aid, PAT testing, Health and Safety and Kitchen and Food Hygiene.

Whenever possible, at all events involving food preparation, at least one worker will hold a valid Basic Food Hygiene Certificate.

Buildings being used for children's and adult at risk groups will be properly maintained. A representative from the teams involved will take part in an annual health and safety review in order to consider all aspects of safety for everyone involved in using the premises.

3.3.3 Fire

It is the responsibility of all group leaders/responsible persons within the building to ensure the safety of themselves and those who are in their care. In addition, it is a legal requirement that all group leaders/responsible persons are familiar with the emergency procedures in the event of a fire. A fire drill will be conducted regularly to ensure that people are familiar with evacuation procedures.

3.3.4 First Aid

Our church has a number of trained First Aiders and there is a list showing who they are on the noticeboard. All church groups will ensure that they have sufficient trained first aiders on their regular team so that there is always a first aider present at events and activities.

We have two first aid kits (one in each kitchen) as well as an incident reporting book, which must be completed in the event of any accidents, injuries or incidents. There is also an additional first aid kit for external events. The deacon responsible for Health & Safety will ensure that the contents of the first aid kits are checked on a regular basis. Completed accident forms should be passed to Gloria Findley.

3.3.5 Supervision of Groups

The person responsible for a group/activity must sign in at the start and end of that activity so that it is apparent who the 'responsible person' for that activity is – even if you were already in the building or are staying on afterwards. You also need to make sure that you keep a register so that you know who is on the premises. Registers should include workers as well as those attending.

3.3.6 Food Hygiene

The Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995 state that anyone who handles food or whose actions could affect its safety must comply with the regulations. It therefore follows that those with responsibility for food will need to possess the Basic Food Hygiene Certificate and be aware of food safety (preparation, handling and storage, disposal of waste, etc).

3.3.7 Risk Assessment

Before undertaking any activity with children or adults at risk, the leader will ensure that a risk assessment is carried out. It is advisable to appoint someone specifically for this task.

3.3.8 Insurance

Residential activity organisers will check that there is adequate insurance cover for any activities planned. If the trip is at a centre it is also important to establish that there is appropriate public liability insurance in place.

3.3.9 Transport

These guidelines apply to all drivers involved in the transportation of children, young people and adults at risk on behalf of the church. They do not apply to private arrangements, for example, transport arrangements made between friends.

- Only those who have gone through the church safer recruitment procedures for workers will transport children and adults at risk (within the DBS eligibility criteria).
- All drivers will have read the church's Safeguarding Policy and agree to abide by it.
- Drivers will be aged 21 or over and have held a full driving licence for at least two years.
- Drivers must ensure that they have adequate insurance cover and that the vehicle being used is road worthy.
- All hired minibuses will have a small bus permit, the necessary insurance and a driver with a valid driving licence that entitles them to drive a minibus.

Our practice specifically for transporting children is as follows:

- Parental consent will be given for all journeys.
- All children and young people should be returned to an agreed drop off point. At collection or drop off points, children should never be left on their own; make sure they are collected by an appropriate adult.
- At least two workers should be present when transporting children as part of a church role.

3.3.10 Outings and Overnight Events involving Children

There are some specific considerations which need to be made for outings and overnight events involving children:

- A risk assessment must be carried out beforehand.
- Parents will be informed in writing of all the arrangements.
- Consent forms will be obtained for the specific activities involved.
- There will be workers with first aid and food hygiene certificates with the group.

Sleeping Arrangements

Sleeping arrangements for overnight events will be carefully considered. It may be acceptable for workers to share sleeping accommodation with children/young people in a large dormitory or on an activity such as youth hostelling, where it is customary practice and there is more than one worker per room. Workers will not share sleeping accommodation with fewer than three children. Arrangements will be age-appropriate, provide security for the child/young person and be safe for everyone involved. The event leader will ensure that parents understand what the arrangements will be and are happy with them.

Adventurous Activities

No child will participate in adventurous activities without the written consent of the parent /carer. The activity leader will ensure that the staff engaged in such activities are properly trained and qualified and that the correct ratio of staff to children is met. At an activity centre or for an organisation whose own staff undertake such activities, if the activities come within the scope of the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 1996, the activity leader needs to ensure that the premises are licensed.

Fire Safety

The event leader will have a fire safety procedure in place, which will include the following:

- Everyone will be warned of the danger of fire. If the overnight event is in a building, then everyone must be made aware of the fire exits. A fire drill will be practised on the first day.
- When using a building as a residential facility, ensure that the fire alarm is audible throughout the accommodation and that all signs and exits are clearly visible. The building will also need to comply with fire regulations.
- In the case of an emergency, ensure measures are in place to alert children and young people with disabilities (e.g. a child who is hard of hearing).

Safety

It is the responsibility of the workers to always know the whereabouts of every child/young person participating in an overnight event, and this may include monitoring access on and off the site.

General safety rules will be applied as appropriate (e.g. no running around tents due to the risk of injury from tripping over guy lines).

Swimming Trips

There will be an increased adult to child ratio for swimming trips. Prior to the trip, workers will establish the swimming ability of the children attending and obtain specific consent. Workers should never change in front of the children.

3.3.11 Outings and Overnight Events involving Adults at Risk

As with outings and events for children, there are additional considerations for a group taking adults with additional needs, such as learning difficulties or mental health needs, on outings or overnight events:

- A risk assessment must be carried out beforehand
- Planning for the trip should take into account specific medical, physical and support needs of each group member, bearing in mind that there may be people in the group who have individual care needs that will have to be met (including personal care)
- Adults at risk should be included in the planning of trips and events
- Consideration should be given to the suitability and accessibility of the venue and accommodation, travel time and mode of transport, and the affordability of the event
- Adults at risk should be given all the information about the trip beforehand so that they know where they are going, how long it will take to get there and what type of activities they will be taking part in.
- There should be a minimum of two leaders with each group; the individual needs of those attending may determine the additional number of people required.

Sleeping Arrangements

Consideration should be given to the individual needs of those staying overnight. If there is a need for personal care or additional support during the night, it would be better that the person's usual caregiver also attends the event and therefore shares a room with them.

Personal Care

It is not appropriate for church workers to perform personal care for adults at risk unless this is their usual task (ie if they have come along to help generally, but also have a caring role for a member of the group, they can provide personal care for that person).

Activities

Leaders should consider the mobility needs of the group when deciding on activities or events. For example, if members of the group have difficulty walking, then including a walking tour around a town may be inaccessible to some who are attending. If you have members of the group who use wheelchairs then consideration needs to be given as to whether you have sufficient workers to support those who may need pushing.

Safety

It is the responsibility of the workers to always know the whereabouts of every person in the group; this may include monitoring access on and off the site.

General safety rules will be applied as appropriate and advice sought from the event organiser / venue about the fire evacuation procedures. A copy of the event / venue risk assessment should be included with the group leader's risk assessment.

Consent and Medical Information

It is important to recognise that adults at risk are mostly able to give consent for their own involvement in activities, inclusion in photographs and medical treatment. However, in some situations the question of capacity may arise. The guidelines clearly state that an adult at risk should have a say in their care and any arrangements made for them, however, there may be occasions when you need to involve others in decision making. In these situations, seek advice from the DPS with regard to who should be involved.

A medical consent form should be completed by each member of the group and held by the leader. This will include any health concerns, emergency contact information and contact details for their GP. This will allow emergency medical personnel to have access to information should the need arise.

Holding and Dispensing of Medication

Church workers should never agree to hold or dispense medication for those on an event. If someone is unable to manage their own medication then consideration should be given as to whether their usual carer could attend with them or whether they will not be able to attend the event.

3.3.12 Hiring of Church Premises

Provisions are made within our lettings policy to ensure that all users of the premises are aware of, and comply with, our safeguarding policy. In addition, external groups working with children, young people or vulnerable adults are required to provide a copy of their own safeguarding policy and liability insurance.

3.4 SAFER COMMUNITY

3.4.1 Bullying

Bullying is another form of abuse, and it can be verbal or physical. Bullying doesn't just happen to children, often adults can be victims too. There is no legal definition of bullying, but it is usually defined as a repeated pattern of behaviour intended to cause emotional or physical harm to another person, or exert power over them. The effect of bullying on the victim can be profound, both emotionally and physically, regardless of their age, ability or status.

It is important to recognise that bullying happens within churches, and it is not isolated to the children and young people. Anyone in the church can be a victim of bullying, just as anyone in the church can be the bully, including those in leadership.

Some examples of bullying that could arise in the church context are:

- Being verbally or physically abusive towards another person
- Isolating or deliberately ignoring someone, or excluding them from group activities
- Spreading rumours and malicious untruths about another person in the church
- Use of email, phone or social media to publicly challenge or undermine someone
- Name calling and personal insults
- Making false accusations
- Sending abusive messages or degrading images via phone, email or social media

Bullying will always cause a great deal of pain and harm for those on the receiving end. Many people affected by bullying, both children and adults, believe they have nowhere to turn. They are scared to speak out and often blame themselves. They can become fearful and reclusive. It is important that churches are able to recognise when bullying is occurring and are prepared to take action to resolve the situation.

Some signs that can indicate a person is being bullied are as follows:

- Withdrawal from group or church activities; appearing anxious, tearful or more reticent than usual, particularly in a certain context; development of mental health difficulties, such as depression or anxiety disorders; drop in performance relating to any church roles; physical injuries.

In order to help prevent bullying, the following procedures will be adopted within the church:

- The children and young people will be involved in agreeing a code of behaviour for their groups, which makes it clear that bullying is unacceptable. This should then be displayed somewhere visible to the whole church.
- The church will display signs stating the importance of valuing and respecting each other even in disagreements and this will be practically embedded into the leadership approach to others.
- Everyone in the church, whether children or adults, should know how they can report any incidents of bullying.
- All allegations of bullying will be treated seriously and details will be carefully checked before action is taken.
- The bullying behaviour will be investigated and bullying will be stopped as quickly as possible.
- An attempt will be made to help bullies change their behaviour.
- All allegations and incidents of bullying will be recorded, together with the actions that are taken.
- Where an allegation of bullying is made against a church or group leader, advice will be sought from the Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact as this should be addressed.
- Incidents of bullying may be reported to the statutory authorities in line with the church safeguarding procedures.

It is important to distinguish bullying from other behaviour, such as respectfully challenging or disagreeing with someone else's beliefs or behaviours, setting reasonable expectations with regard to work deadlines and activities or taking legitimate disciplinary action.

3.4.2 Working with Alleged or Known Offenders

When someone attending the church is known to have abused children or adults at risk, or a serious allegation has been made, the church safeguarding team will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its commitment to protect vulnerable groups, will set boundaries for that person which they shall be expected to keep. These will be set out in what is known as a Safeguarding Contract.

When it is known that a person who has been convicted of abusing children, young people or adults is attending our church, it is important that their behaviour within the church community is properly managed and that a contract is put in place. There are also times when it will be appropriate to take such measures with a person who has faced allegations of abuse, but hasn't been convicted.

In determining the details of the contract:

- The DPS will inform and take advice from the Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact.
- There will be a discussion about who should be informed about the nature of the offence and the details of the contract.
- The rights of the offender to re-build their life without people knowing the details of their past offence should be balanced against the need to protect children, young people and adults at risk.
- The members of the church Safeguarding Team will always be informed.
- The DPS should determine whether the person is subject to supervision or is on the Sex Offenders' Register. If so, the DPS should make contact with the offender's specialist probation officer (SPO) who will inform the church of any relevant information or restrictions that they should be aware of.

An open discussion will be held with the person concerned in which clear boundaries are established for their involvement in the life of the church. A written contract will be drawn up which identifies appropriate behaviour. The person will be required to sign the contract and it will be monitored and enforced. If the contract is broken certain sanctions will be discussed and considered with the Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact.

3.4.3 Alleged or known offenders who are themselves adults at risk

A formal contract may be quite a daunting process for someone with learning difficulties or a young person, yet having safeguards in place is still necessary. Therefore, an alternative may be to arrange a meeting with the individual in question where they can be taken through the main elements of a formal contract in a way that is non-

threatening and easy to understand. Notes would be taken and the individual would need to verbally agree to the requirements laid out in the meeting.

Rather than signing a formal 'contract', the individual would instead sign to say that they agree with the minutes or meeting notes, and that they will stick to what has been agreed during the meeting. This will result in the same outcome as a contract, but is a more informal and appropriate approach for an adult at risk. The agreed requirements will need to be reviewed regularly to make sure that the individual is complying, exactly as a formal contract would be.

SECTION 4 - USEFUL CONTACTS

Church contacts

Rev. Dave Simms (Pastor)	Office	020 8524 6753
	Mobile (available 24 hours in emergency)	07761 080 610
	Email	pastor@chingfordcong.org.uk
Gloria Findley (Safeguarding Officer)	020 8529 2907	
Hazel Simms (Safeguarding Officer)	020 8529 4165	

Congregational Federation

Lisa Vickers (Safeguarding Officer)	01159 111 466 Lisa.vickers@congregational.org.uk
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London Borough of Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	020 8496 2310 (Out of Hours: 020 8496 3000)
Waltham Forest Safeguarding Adults Team	020 8496 3000

Other

ChildLine (24 hour, Free & Confidential)	0800 1111
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247

APPENDIX 1 - DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Understanding, Recognising and Responding to Abuse

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or adult at risk. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child or adult by inflicting harm, or by 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. They may be abused by an adult or adults or a child or children. There are many different ways in which people suffer abuse. The list below is, sadly, not exhaustive.

Type of abuse	Child	Adult at risk
<i>Physical</i>	Actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury to a child.	To inflict pain, physical injury or suffering to an adult at risk.
<i>Emotional</i>	The persistent, emotional, ill treatment of a child that affects their emotional and behavioural development. It may involve conveying to the child that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or that they are given responsibilities beyond their years.	The use of threats, fear or power gained by another adult's position, to invalidate the person's independent wishes. Such behaviour can create very real emotional and psychological distress. All forms of abuse have an emotional component.
<i>Sexual</i>	Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This includes non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.	Any non-consenting sexual act or behaviour. No one should enter into a sexual relationship with someone for whom they have pastoral responsibility or hold a position of trust.
<i>Neglect</i>	Where adults fail to care for children and protect them from danger, seriously impairing health and development.	A person's wellbeing is impaired and their care needs are not met. Neglect can be deliberate or can occur as a result of not understanding what someone's needs are.
<i>Type of Abuse</i>	Additional Definitions	
<i>Financial</i>	The inappropriate use, misappropriation, embezzlement or theft of money, property or possessions.	
<i>Spiritual</i>	The inappropriate use of religious belief or practice; coercion and control of one individual by another in a spiritual context; the abuse of trust by someone in a position of spiritual authority (e.g. minister). The person experiences spiritual abuse as a deeply emotional personal attack.	
<i>Discrimination</i>	The inappropriate treatment of a person because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality or disability.	
<i>Institutional</i>	The mistreatment or abuse of a person by a regime or individuals within an institution. It can occur through repeated acts of poor or inadequate care and neglect, or poor professional practice or ill-treatment. The church as an institution is not exempt from perpetrating institutional abuse.	

<i>Domestic Abuse</i>	Domestic abuse is any threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship, or between family members. It can affect anybody regardless of their age, gender, sexuality or social status. Domestic abuse can be physical, sexual or psychological, and whatever form it takes, it is rarely a one-off incident. Usually there is a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour where an abuser seeks to exert power over their family member or partner.
<i>Cyber Abuse</i>	The use of information technology (email, mobile phones, websites, social media, instant messaging, chatrooms, etc.) to repeatedly harm or harass other people in a deliberate manner.
<i>Self-harm</i>	Self-Harm is the intentional damage or injury to a person's own body. It is used as a way of coping with or expressing overwhelming emotional distress. An individual may also be neglecting themselves, which can result in harm to themselves.
<i>Mate crime</i>	'Mate crime' is when people (particularly those with learning disabilities) are befriended by members of the community, who go on to exploit and take advantage of them.
<i>Modern Slavery</i>	Modern slavery is the practice of treating people as property; it includes bonded labour, child labour, sex slavery and trafficking. It is illegal in every country of the world.
<i>Human Trafficking</i>	Human trafficking is when people are bought and sold for financial gain and/or abuse. Men, women and children can be trafficked, both within their own countries and over international borders. The traffickers will trick, coerce, lure or force these vulnerable individuals into sexual exploitation, forced labour, street crime, domestic servitude or even the sale of organs and human sacrifice.
<i>Radicalisation</i>	The radicalisation of individuals is the process by which people come to support any form of extremism and, in some cases, join terrorist groups. Some individuals are more vulnerable to the risk of being groomed into terrorism than others.
<i>Honour / Forced Marriage</i>	An honour marriage / forced marriage is when one or both of the spouses do not, or cannot, consent to the marriage. There may be physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure exerted in order to make the marriage go ahead. The motivation may include the desire to control unwanted behaviour or sexuality.
<i>Female Genital Mutilation</i>	Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). FGM is a cultural practice common around the world and is largely performed on girls aged between 10 and 18. Performing acts of FGM is illegal in the UK as is arranging for a child to travel abroad for FGM to be carried out.
<i>Historic Abuse</i>	Historic abuse is the term used to describe disclosures of abuse that were perpetrated in the past. Many people who have experienced abuse don't tell anyone what happened until years later, with around one third of people abused in childhood waiting until adulthood before they share their experience.

Whilst it is not possible to be prescriptive about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, the following list sets out some of the indicators which might be suggestive of abuse:

- unexplained injuries on areas of the body not usually prone to such injuries
- an injury that has not been treated/received medical attention
- an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- a child or adult at risk discloses behaviour that is harmful to them

- unexplained changes in behaviour or mood (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden bursts of temper)
- inappropriate sexual awareness in children
- signs of neglect, such as under-nourished, untreated illnesses, inadequate care.

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more indicators is not in itself proof that abuse is actually taking place.

It is also important to remember that there might be other reasons why most of the above are occurring

APPENDIX 2 – DETAILED GUIDANCE ON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

STAGE 1 – THE WORKER

The duty of the person who receives information or who has a concern about the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk is to RECOGNISE the concerns, make a RECORD in writing and RESPOND by passing on their concerns to the DPS. If he/she is not contactable, or they are implicated in the situation, another member of the church Safeguarding Team should be contacted instead.

Concerns should be passed on to the DPS within 24 hours of the concern being raised. If anyone is considered to be in imminent danger of harm, a report should be made immediately to the police by calling 999. If such a report is made without reference to the DPS, they should be informed as soon as possible afterwards.

A written record using the standard incident report form should be made as soon as possible after a child or adult at risk tells you about harmful behaviour, or an incident takes place that gives cause for concern.

The record should:

- be hand-written as soon as possible after the event
- be legible and state the facts accurately (when hand-written notes are typed up later the original hand-written notes should be retained)
- include the child or adult at risk's name, address, date of birth (or age if the date of birth is not known)
- include the nature of the concerns/allegation/disclosure
- include a description of any bruising or other injuries that you may have noticed
- include an exact record of what the child or adult at risk has said, using their own words where possible
- include what was said by the person to whom the concerns were reported
- include any action taken as a result of the concerns
- be signed and dated
- be kept secure and confidential and made available only to the church Safeguarding Team (including the church minister), representatives of any statutory authorities involved and the Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact.

If concerns arise in the context of children's or adult at risk work, the worker who has the concern may in the first instance wish to talk it through with their group leader, where appropriate. However, such conversations should not delay concerns being passed on to the DPS. It should be clear that the duty remains with the worker to record and pass on their concerns to the DPS.

If an issue concerns an adult at risk who does not give permission to pass on the information to anyone else, the worker should explain that they will need to speak with the DPS, who will have greater expertise in dealing with the issue at hand.

If a concern is brought to the attention of a group leader by one of the workers, the leader should remind the worker of their duty to record and report, and will also themselves have a duty to pass on the concern to the DPS.

STAGE 2 – THE DESIGNATED PERSON FOR SAFEGUARDING (DPS)

The duty of the DPS on receiving a report is to REVIEW the concern that they have received and REPORT the concern on to the appropriate people, where necessary.

The duty to REVIEW

In reviewing the report that is received, the DPS:

- should take into account their level of experience and expertise in assessing risk to children or adults at risk.

- must take into account any other reports that have been received concerning the same individual or family.
- may speak with others in the church where appropriate (including the Minister and church Safeguarding Team, unless allegations involve them) who may have relevant information and knowledge that would impact on any decision being made. Such conversations should not lead to undue delay in taking any necessary action.
- may consult with other agencies to seek guidance and advice in knowing how to respond appropriately to the concerns that have been raised.

The duty to REPORT

The DPS will decide who the report should be referred on to, working in conjunction with the church Safeguarding Team where appropriate. They may:

- refer back to the worker who made the initial report if there is little evidence that a child or adult at risk is being harmed, asking for appropriate continued observation.
- refer the concern to others who work with the child or adult at risk in question, asking for continued observation where appropriate.
- Inform parents / carers under certain circumstances, where doing so would not present any further risk of harm.
- Make a formal referral to the police or local Social Services team. With adults at risk, confidentiality means that someone's personal business is not discussed with others, except with their permission. This is not always possible when considering passing relevant information about abuse or concerns to the statutory authorities, however, it is possible to keep the information confidential to the relevant parties. This means not telling or hinting to others what has been disclosed, not even for prayer ministry purposes. For adults at risk, concerns will only be referred to the police or Social Services without consent where:
 - the person lacks the mental capacity to make such a choice
 - there is a risk of harm to others
 - in order to prevent a crime
- If an allegation is made against someone who works with children* the allegation should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or equivalent. The LADO is located within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:
 - behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
 - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.
- If an allegation is made against someone who works with adults at risk*, it should be reported to the police or Adult Social Services.

**If a worker has an allegation made against them, they should step down from all church duties until the incident has been investigated by the statutory authorities. It may also be appropriate to put a Safeguarding Contract in place; this should be discussed with the Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact.*

- Whenever a formal referral is made to the police, Social Services or LADO, the DPS should report the referral to:
 - The Safeguarding Trustee
 - The Minister
 - The Congregational Federation Safeguarding Contact

A record should be kept of all safeguarding incidents and should be considered in the annual review of the church's safeguarding policy. All original reports should be retained safely and securely by the DPS and a written record should be made of the actions taken.

STAGE 3 – THE NEXT STEPS

Responsibilities to **REPORT** and **SUPPORT** in stage 3 of the process are shared by the church Safeguarding Team and the Minister.

The duty to SUPPORT

Once concerns, suspicions and disclosures of abuse have been addressed, the church continues to have a responsibility to offer support to all those who have been affected, including:

Victims; Alleged perpetrators; Children; Adults at risk; Other family members; Church workers; Church Safeguarding Team; Minister; Leadership Team.

The duty to REPORT

If a church worker has been accused of causing harm to children, young people or adults at risk this would be classed as a serious incident that should be reported to the Charity Commission by those churches that are registered with the Charity Commission.

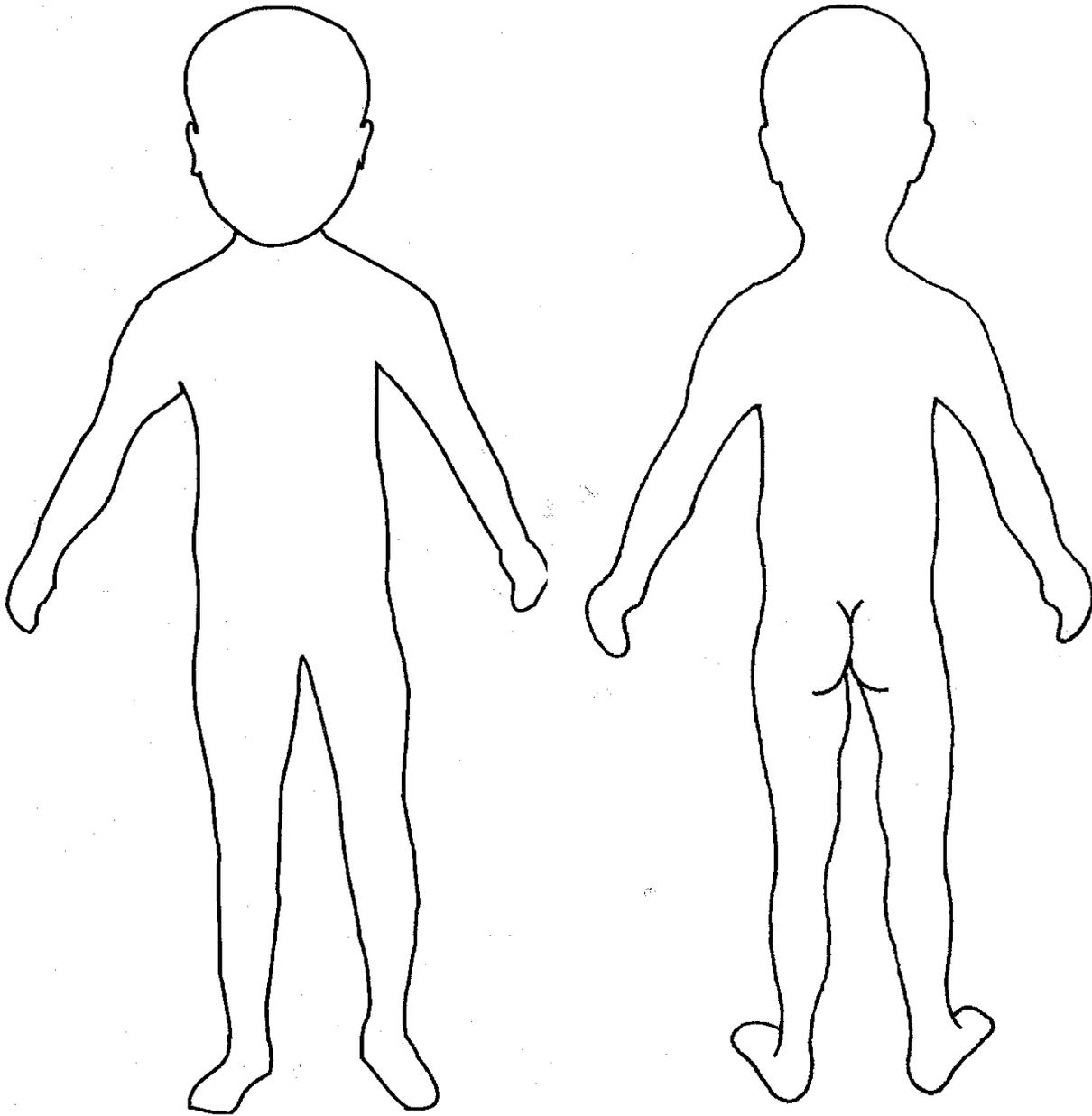
If a worker has been removed from their post or would have been removed from their post because of the risk of harm that they pose to children, young people or adults at risk, there is also a statutory duty to report the incident to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

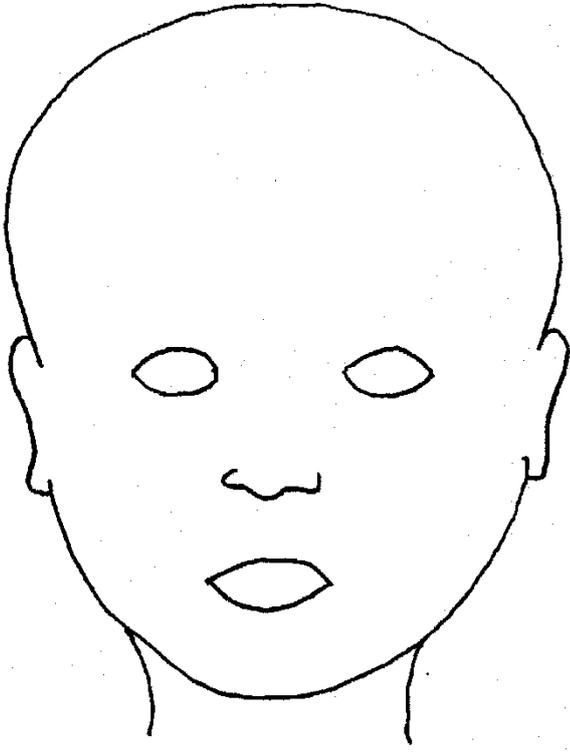
APPENDIX 3 – SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT REPORT FORMS

Your name	Your position
Place of work	Contact phone number
The child's details	
Name	
Address/phone number	
Date of birth	
Other relevant details about the child: <i>Eg family circumstances, physical and mental health, any communication difficulties.</i>	
Parent/guardian/carers details	
Details of the allegations/suspensions	
Are you recording: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure made directly to you by the child? • Disclosure or suspicions from a third party? • Your suspicions or concerns? 	
Date and time of disclosure	
Date and time of incident	
Details of the allegation/suspensions. <i>State exactly what you were told/observed and what was said. Use the persons own words as much as possible (continue overleaf or on new sheet if necessary)</i>	
Action taken so far:	
Signed	Date

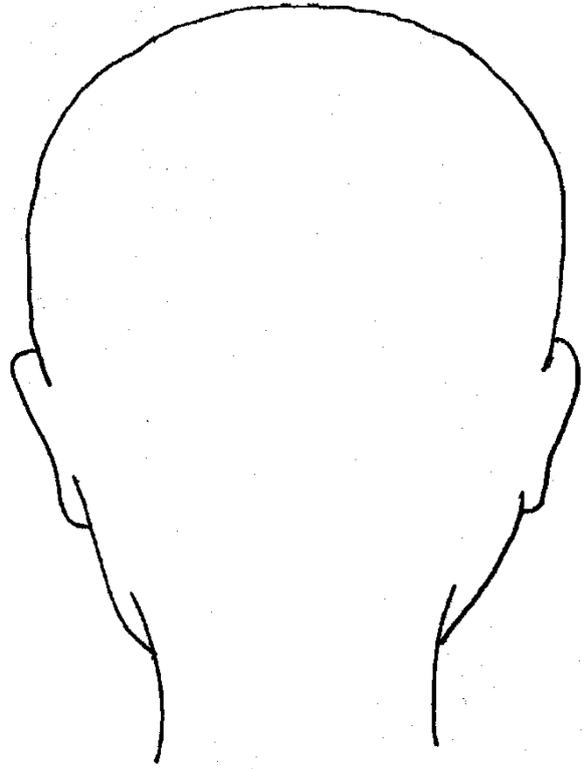
BODYMAP

(This must be completed at time of observation)

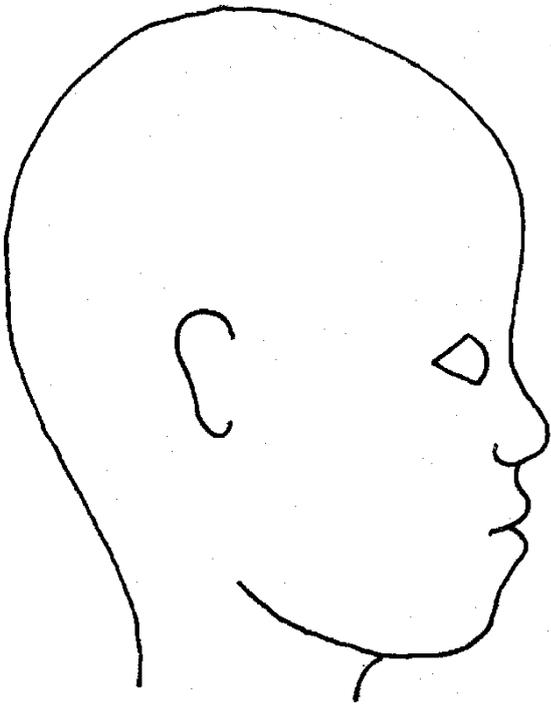




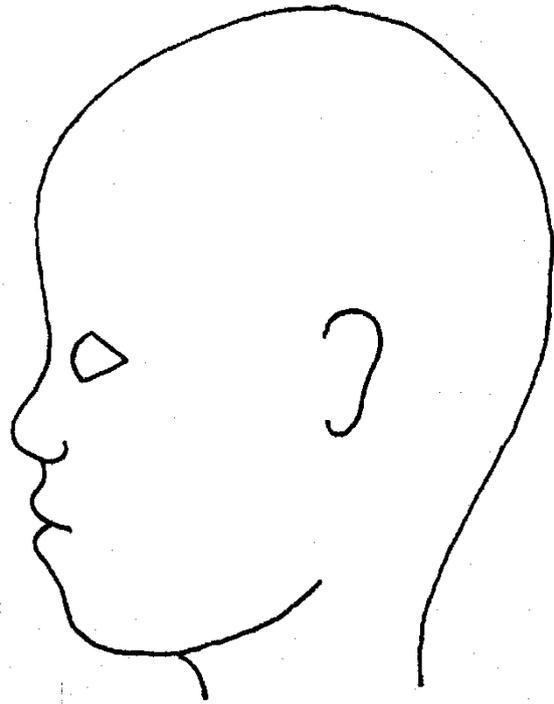
FRONT



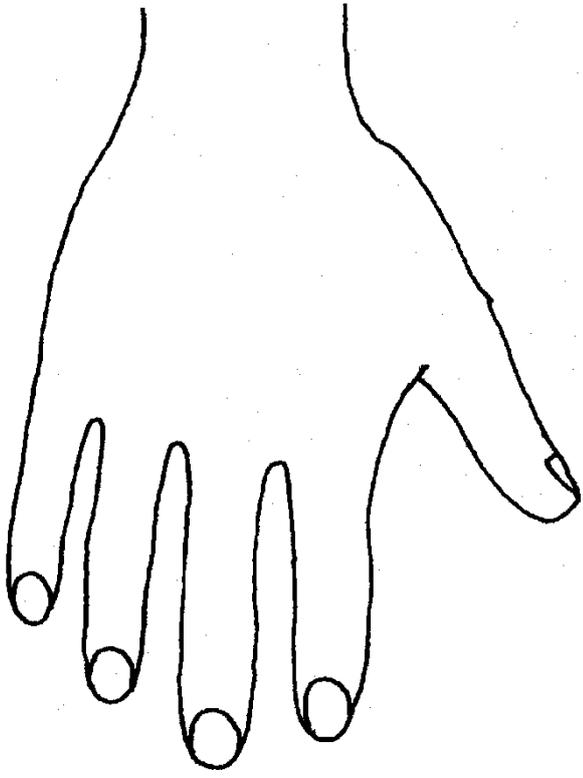
BACK



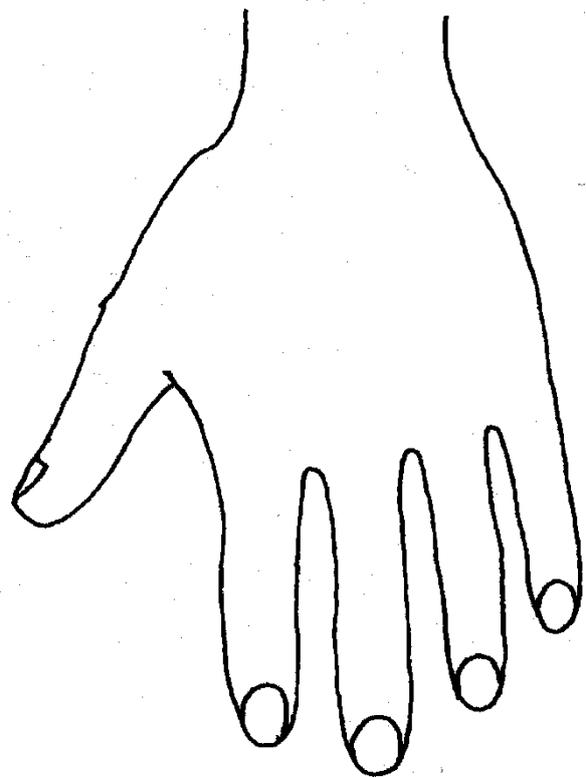
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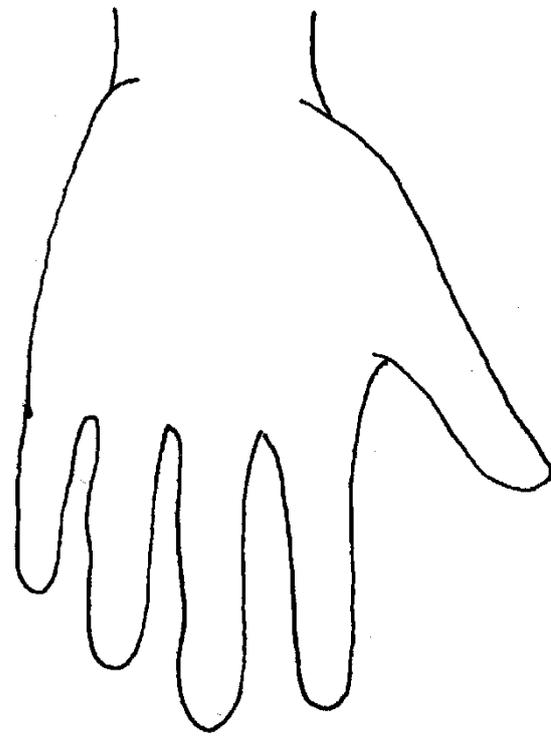
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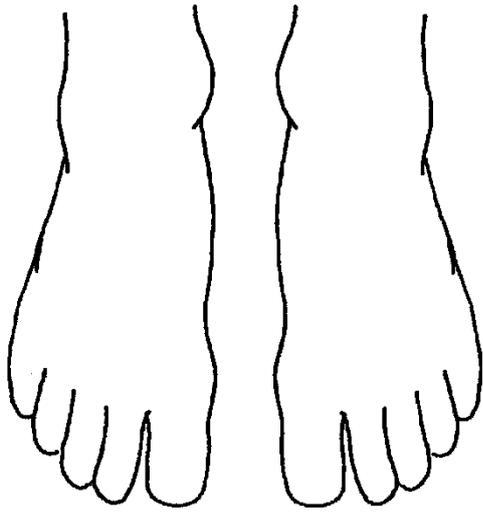


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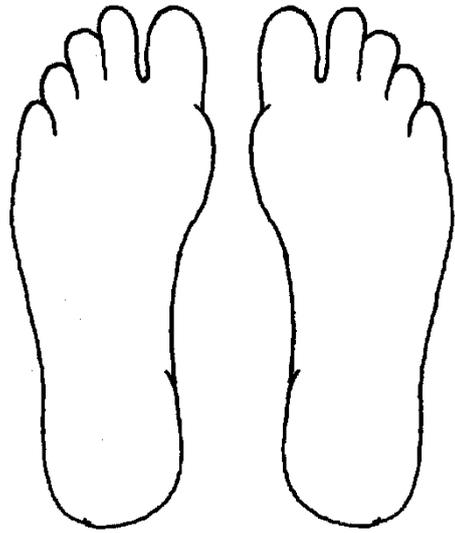


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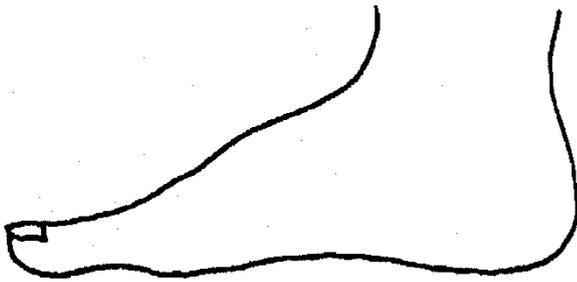




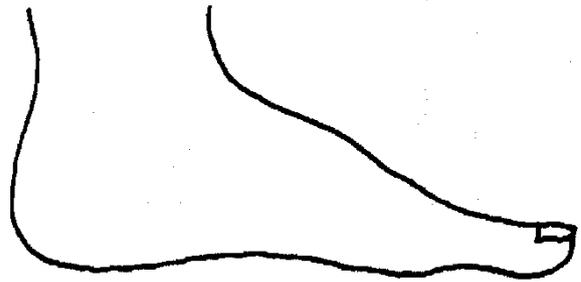
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R BOTTOM L

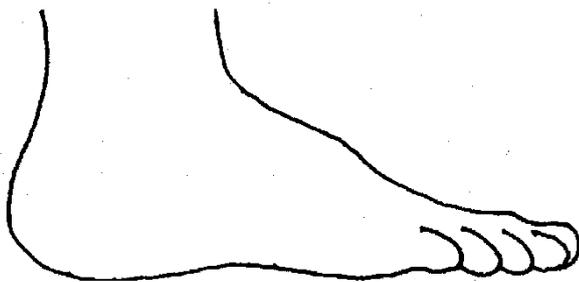


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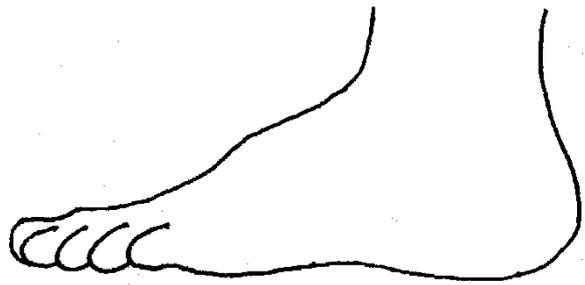


L

INNER



R



L

OUTER

Telephone log

Name:	Ref No:
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Date	Time	Called/Received (If called please enter number dialled)	Name of person called/received	Details of conversation	Name/Initials of caller/recipient

APPENDIX 4 – LOCAL WORKERS FORM (CF15)

This church greatly values the service of those called to work with young people or vulnerable adults. As part of our Safeguarding policy, we need to place on record that appropriate information has been asked of anyone wishing to serve in this way.

Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 this includes the disclosure of any criminal convictions. The Church seeks to treat all applicants fairly. So declaring a conviction will not necessarily preclude someone from being appointed to this work.

Completed forms should be returned to the appointed church officer, who undertakes to keep them securely.

This section to be completed by an appointed person on behalf of the church before completion by the applicant.	
APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF:	
DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE REQUIRED:	
Barred List Check and Enhanced / Enhanced only / None at this time	
SIGNED:	
DATE;	
NAME OF CHURCH	

PERSONAL DETAILS	
Surname:	First Names:
Date of Birth:	Email:
Address:	Phone: Day: Evening:
Postcode:	Email:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What experience and skills do you have for work with young people / vulnerable adults?

Please give details of any relevant training or qualifications.

Are you prepared to undertake appropriate training?

YES / NO

REFERENCES (NEW WORKERS ONLY)

Please give contact details of two people who can advise us of your suitability for this work.

Name:	Position:
Address:	Telephone:
Postcode:	Email:

Name:	Position:
Address:	Telephone:
Postcode:	Email:

DISCLOSURE

Have you any criminal convictions, cautions or bind-overs*? **YES / NO**

Are you at present the subject of criminal investigations? **YES / NO**

Is there any other information you should declare affecting your suitability for this work?

YES / NO

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', then please attach details to this form.

** Please note that 'spent' convictions must still be declared. The amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013) provide that certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected' and are not subject to disclosure to employers, and cannot be taken into account. Guidance and criteria on the filtering of these cautions and convictions can be found on the Disclosure and Barring Service website.*

DECLARATION	
I declare that the information in this application is true and complete. I agree to provide such further information as may be required for this post, such as proof of identity and an appropriate certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service or Central Registered Body in Scotland. I understand that an interview and a probationary period may also be required	
Signed:	Date:

APPENDIX 6 – ADOPTION OF SAFEGUARDING POLICY

South Chingford Congregational Church adopts the Congregational Federation guidelines as the minimum standards for all its work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This document was discussed and approved at the Church meeting held on _____

This policy is displayed on Church premises and is available for inspection.

This policy has been given to all leaders of Church groups for guidance and implementation.

This policy has been given to all leaders of groups using the church premises for guidance and implementation.

This policy will be updated annually however any changes will be noted immediately and the appropriate people notified.

It is the responsibility of the Minister and those responsible for Safeguarding within the church to ensure that this policy is kept up to date.

To be signed by two church officers and to be included with the documents sent to the Congregational Federation's Safeguarding Officer.

Church Officers Declaration	
Name:	Signed:
Position in Church:	Date:
Name:	Signed:
Position in Church:	Date:
SUBMIT SAFEGUARDING POLICY	
POST: PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL LISA VICKERS – SAFEGUARDING OFFICER THE CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION 8 CASTLE GATE NOTTINGHAM NG1 7AS	EMAIL: SAFEGUARDING@CONGREGATIONAL.ORG.UK TELEPHONE: 0115 911 1460

APPENDIX 7 – ADOPTION OF SAFEGUARDING POLICY – LEADERS OF CHURCH GROUPS

Please complete and return to the Designated Person for Safeguarding or other appointed person.

- I have read the Church's Safeguarding Policy.
- I agree to abide by the sections that apply to my role within the Church.
- I will make sure that those assisting me are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- I will notify the leadership team in writing of any change in personnel.
- I will ensure that the guidelines for safer recruitment are followed by providing role descriptions, obtaining references, initiating interview and probationary periods where necessary.
- I will notify the leadership team in writing of any incidents that put the safety of the attenders of the group or their leaders at risk.
- I agree that any equipment brought onto the premises is safety tested.

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

Name of Group	
Signed	
Dated	
Position in Group	

APPENDIX 8 – ADOPTION OF SAFEGUARDING POLICY – LEADERS GROUPS USING CHURCH PREMISES

Please complete and return to the Designated Person for Safeguarding or other appointed person.

- I have read the Church’s Safeguarding Policy.
- I agree to abide by the sections that apply to my group and relate to the use of the church premises.
- I agree that any equipment brought onto the premises is safety tested.
- I will make sure that those assisting me are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- I will notify the church leadership team in writing of any change in leadership.
- I will notify the church leadership team in writing of any incidents that put the safety of the attenders of the group or their leaders at risk.
- I will ensure that appropriate insurance is held to cover the activities being held on the church premises.
- I will ensure I have an up to date rental agreement with the church.

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

Name of Group	
Signed	
Dated	
Position in Group	

REGISTRATION & CONSENT FORM FOR UNDER 18'S

CHILDREN'S CHURCH – 2018/2019

ABOUT THE CHILD / YOUNG PERSON

Full name of child/young person:

Name by which child/young person chooses to be known:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Date of birth: / /

School attended (if applicable): School year:

Are there any health conditions/SEN/allergies we should be aware of?

.....

Is the child/young person on any medication?

.....

Anything else you would like us to know about:

.....

ABOUT THE PARENT / GUARDIAN

Who has parental responsibility for the child/young person?

Name:

Address (if different from above):

..... Postcode:

Telephone:

Email address:

Additional contact in case of emergency:

Name: Phone:

CONSENT FOR THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we need your permission before we can photograph or make any recordings of children or young people. Occasionally, we may take photographs of children and young people at events. We may use these images in printed publications as well as on our website. We may also make video recordings at events.

Please answer questions 1-4 below.

Conditions of use:

- We will not use personal details or full names (which means first name and surname) of any child or young person in a photographic image or video, on our website, in printed publications.
 - We will not include personal contact details on video, on our website or in printed publications.
 - If we use photographs of individual children or young people, we will not use the name of that child or young person in the accompanying text or photo caption.
 - If we name a child or young person in the text, we will not use a photograph of that child or young person to accompany the article.
 - We may use group photographs or footage with very general labels, such as “children’s day” or “youth festival”.
 - We will only take and use images of children and young people who are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of these photos being used inappropriately.
1. May we use images featuring your child in printed format? **YES / NO (Please circle)**
 2. May we use images featuring your child on the church website/social media? **YES / NO**
 3. Are you happy for images featuring your child to appear in the media? **YES / NO**

DECLARATION

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the normal activities of this group. I understand that separate permission will be sought for certain activities, including outings or any activity lasting longer than the normal meeting times of this group.

In an emergency and/or if I cannot be contacted, I am willing for my child to receive necessary hospital or dental treatment including an anaesthetic.

Signed (parent or adult with parental responsibility):

Date: / /

Under Data Protection legislation the church Charity Trustees of South Chingford Congregational Church are the Data Controller and the Church Secretary acts as our Data Protection Officer.

We are collecting this information to enable the church to run activities with children safely and to ensure we can contact you (or other nominated adult) in case of emergency. Data Protection legislation allows us to process this information as we regard it as being in the church’s legitimate interest. If you are unable to supply the information requested then we will be unable to allow your children to take part in our children’s activities for their own safety.

The information you supply will be held in paper form in a folder which will be kept in a securely locked cabinet in the church office. Only the Pastor, Designated Person for Safeguarding and children’s activity leaders will have access to this information. This form will be renewed annually to ensure all details are up to date, and all previous copies will be destroyed. We will not pass this information to anyone else, unless required by statutory authorities for safeguarding purposes.

If you are concerned about the way your information is being handled please speak to our Data Protection Officer. If you are still unhappy you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioners Office.