

Barnsley St Edward the Confessor Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

This policy and attached procedures are for the use of all clergy, congregation, volunteers, paid staff and visitors.

Aims:

To create an environment where the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults connected to St Edward's Church are a priority

To promote a culture of equality, respect and openness within St Edward's Church

To respond quickly and appropriately to concerns about and allegations of abuse against vulnerable adults

Policy:

Our policy complies with the Barnsley Adult Safeguarding Board policies and procedures and any relevant legislation.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy we are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims and survivors of abuse , and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those who may pose a risk to others

Definition of Vulnerable Adults:

A vulnerable adult refers to a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect him or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability, illness, old age, emotional fragility, distress, or otherwise. The reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired.

Some adults may not consider themselves vulnerable but may be vulnerable to being abused by individuals in positions of leadership and responsibility. As adults are not inherently vulnerable and in need of protection, it is important to recognise that the factors described below do not, of themselves, mean that a person is vulnerable. It is a combination of one or more of these factors and the circumstances that a person finds him or herself in that can make an individual vulnerable to abuse or neglect.

Some factors that can increase vulnerability include:

- A mental illness
- A sensory or physical disability or impairment
- A learning disability
- A physical illness
- Dementia
- Addiction to alcohol or drugs

- Failing faculties of old age
- Being homeless
- Being a refugee or asylum seeker
- Being a victim or survivor of domestic violence
- Being a victim of historical sexual abuse in childhood
- Having a reduction in capacity brought about by life events such as bereavement

All adults, including vulnerable adults, have a fundamental human right to choose how and with whom they live, even if this appears to involve a degree of risk. They should be supported to make their own decisions and choices, to live as independently as possible and to be treated with respect and dignity.

Procedures:

Safe recruitment will be carried out for paid staff and volunteers who work with vulnerable adults at St Edward's Church. Staff and volunteers should comply with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, in particular paragraphs 11.1 (code of safer working practice) and 11.4 (visiting adults)

The PCC will ensure that appropriate supervision and training will be given to any paid staff or volunteers who work with vulnerable adults.

Home visits to vulnerable adults will be reported to the PCC when the visit is on behalf of the church

Health and safety guidelines, as detailed in the Health and Safety Policy, will be followed for services and events where vulnerable adults are involved

Concerns about abuse should be shared as soon as possible with the vulnerable adults co-ordinator Margaret Gostelow (Margaret.gostelow@gmail.com or on 01226 790460) and/or the diocesan safeguarding advisors Sofia McGreavy, Jenny Leccardi, Nikki Rose & Narinder Lyon, and assistant diocesan safeguarding advisor Sam McMorland. Phone: 0113 353 0257. Email: safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org

Allegations/disclosures of abuse will be listened to and taken seriously and should be shared **immediately** with the vulnerable adults' co-ordinator and/or the diocesan safeguarding advisor, who will give advice and refer to adult social care. If they are not available, Barnsley adult social care should be contacted directly on 01226 773300 in office hours, or on 01226 787789 after 5pm, at weekends and on bank holidays.

The police can also be contacted on 999 if there is an immediate risk.

This policy and procedures to be shared with all members of St Edward's Church and reviewed annually

April 2024