

Version history:

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- Author: Carol Barber & Paul Graham
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Life Church are committed to the safeguarding of adults and to ensuring their well-being. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which state that everyone is entitled to '*all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status*'.¹

Definitions

Safeguarding

The term safeguarding can be described as a continuum with 'promoting welfare' at one end and 'protecting from harm' at the other.

Adults at risk

The term 'adult at risk' refers to: Any person aged 18 and over who:

- Needs care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Abuse of adults at risk

Abuse of adults at risk is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, sexual, psychological or emotional (including spiritual), financial or material, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory, domestic, modern slavery, organisational abuse or poor practice, self-neglect, or it may occur when an adult at risk is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

Response

Life Church Leadership recognises the importance of its ministry and work with adults at risk and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to its care, specifically:

- We believe every individual should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that individuals we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All adults at risk have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial/ material, neglect, discriminatory, restrictive, organised abuse and neglect of adults at risk and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.

¹ Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

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- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults at risk and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of Life Church unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with adults with care and support needs, or those who will be in positions of trust. We will promote safer practice and support, resource and train and regularly review those who undertake this work.
- We reserve the right to remove people's authorisation to work with adults at risk.

We are committed to:

- following statutory and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding adults and good practice recommendations;
- ongoing membership & learning from Thirtyone:eight – a UK independent safeguarding specialist;
- implementing the requirements of the Care Act 2014² and the Equality Act 2010³ and all other relevant legislation;
- ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed Safeguarding procedures;
- keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding;
- supporting the Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect adults at risk;
- ensuring that everyone acting on behalf of Life Church, agrees to abide by the Life Church policy and procedures;
- nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of adults at risk;
- supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work;
- supporting everyone who takes part in Life Church activities who may be affected by abuse;
- adopting and following the '10 safeguarding standards'⁴ developed by Thirtyone:eight;

We recognise:

- Adult Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult at risk.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the Police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Where working outside the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to our agency's headquarters.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this policy and our procedures on an annual basis, and all approved amendments will be recorded in the minutes of the Trustees' meeting.

A copy of our Safeguarding Policy will be posted on our website, together with the below form & details of how to report concerns.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets/care-act-factsheets>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

⁴ <https://thirtyoneeight.org/about-us/who-we-are/our-ten-standards/>

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If you have any Safeguarding concerns or observations, you can email them direct to safeguarding@wearelifechurch.uk This is the preferred way of sharing concerns or observations.

If you prefer to record them physically, you can use this form below to fill in by hand or electronically, then give to Safeguarding Coordinator: Carol Barber or Deputy: Paul Graham

This page (and additional pages) may be used to make notes as appropriate:

Once completed this form should be given to the Safeguarding Coordinator (Carol Barber) or Deputy (Paul Graham). They will date it, and sign it with you to confirm receipt.

Date:

Signature of adult completing form:

Received by Safeguarding Coordinator (Or Deputy):

