

Your Role

- Be approachable
- Listen carefully, uncritically and at the vulnerable person's pace
- Take what is said seriously
- Don't promise confidentiality
- Clarify essential information
- Reassure
- Don't investigate
- Tell them what will happen next
- Don't try to resolve the issue
- Tell the Safeguarding Co-ordinator without delay
- Record the information on a Record of Concern Form¹ and give this to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator

All adult volunteers who work on their own with children or vulnerable adults must be cleared by a DBS check before contact begins. Adam Clark can show you how to apply for clearance.

In the absence of DBS clearance volunteers with children or youth must be supervised at all times.

¹ This can be found in the Resources section of the Connect Church website: www.connectchurch.org.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Kathe Clark
Mobile: 07734 513605
Email: Kathe@connectchurch.org.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Lise Davies
Mobile: 07528 178551
Email: lise.davies@hotmail.co.uk

DBS Checks and Records

Adam Clark
Mobile: 07526 720393
Email: Adam@connectchurch.org.uk

Thirtyone:eight

We are members of a brilliant organisation called Thirtyone:eight (formerly CCPAS) which provides amazing advice to churches. Their experts are available via the helpline.

Helpline: 0303 003 11 11

Or contact them at
PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent
BR8 7UQ

<https://thirtyoneeight.org/>



Safeguarding for Connect Church, Chorleywood.

We recognise that safeguarding vulnerable people is everybody's responsibility and that we all need to be able to recognise and respond to concerns about vulnerable children and adults in our care.

For more information see the full [Safeguarding Policy](#)¹

"The biggest barrier to diagnosis is the existence of emotional blocks in the minds of professionals. These can be so powerful that they prevent diagnosis even being considered in quite obvious cases. All those working with children should be warned that their overwhelming impulse on confronting their first case is to cover it up." – **British Medical Journal (1989)**

Don't be tempted to think it could never happen here or to cover up for the sake of the church's reputation.

When and what might I be concerned about?

At any time you may be concerned about information which suggests a vulnerable person is being neglected or experiencing physical, emotional or sexual harm. You may observe physical signs, notice changes in the person's behaviour or presentation, pick up signs of emotional distress or they may disclose a harmful experience to you.

How would I know if a child was being harmed?

Young people will sometimes tell an adult if they are being harmed. They might tell you, for example, that their Mum had hit them, or that they are

very frightened of their Grandad when he is drunk. They could tell you that they are being bullied at school, or even that an adult in the school or church was treating them badly. It is also possible that you might notice something that has made you think a child is being harmed.

What should I do if a vulnerable person discloses that they are being harmed?

1. Listen carefully to what is being said to you, do not interrupt.
2. Reassure them that it is not their fault. Stress that it was the right thing to tell you. Be calm, attentive and non-judgemental. Do not promise to keep what is said a secret. Ask non-leading questions (TED) to clarify if necessary:

Tell me more...

Explain that to me...what do you mean when you say...

Describe what happened....

Then follow the steps in the flowchart to the right.

The information you have may not seem huge or even worth reporting, however it might just be the final piece in a complex jigsaw and it will help us to make an informed decision

about risk of harm to the vulnerable person.

