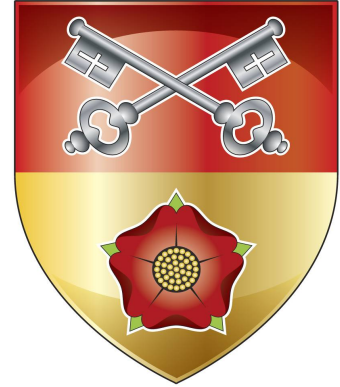


**A policy for  
Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults**

**THE  
DIOCESE  
OF  
BLACKBURN**



**Parish of Blackburn, St Bartholomew**



## **Recent changes:**

**22/9/22**

P2 Updated review date

This policy is reviewed annually by St Bartholomew' Church PCC, the latest review having taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

St Bartholomew's Church is committed to safeguarding vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, spiritual, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect

We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies, procedures and practice reflect this

We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of this church

We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with vulnerable adults, or who will be in positions of trust. We will promote safer practice and support, resource, train and regularly review those who undertake this work

We seek to keep up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding. We will follow statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding adults and we will ensure that all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy

We will implement the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 and all other relevant legislation

We will support everyone in the church who may be affected by abuse of any kind

We recognise that:

- Adult Social Care has the lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed, the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

## **Abuse and neglect of adults**

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 those choices, to live as independently as possible and treated with respect and dignity.

### **Who abuses adults?**

Potentially anyone, adult or child, can be the abuser of an adult. Abuse will sometimes be deliberate, but it may also be an unintended consequence of ignorance or lack of awareness. Alternatively, it may arise from frustration or lack of support. The list can include:

- Relatives of the vulnerable person including husband, wife, partner, son or daughter. It will sometimes include a relative who is a main carer.
- Neighbours.
- Paid carers.
- Workers in places of worship.
- People who are themselves vulnerable and/or are users of a care service.
- Confidence tricksters who prey on people in their own homes or elsewhere

### **Relatives who are main carers**

Carers can experience considerable stress, exhaustion and frustration without respite or support. This can lead to unintended poor care or abuse. Relatives who are the main carers may also be subject to abuse by those for whom they are caring. This abuse is often endured for long periods and unreported.

### **Institutions**

All people living in institutions are more likely to have a degree of vulnerability. The Care Quality Commission in England has responsibility for inspecting and regulating the quality of care in institutions such as residential care homes, domiciliary care services and hospitals. In addition, the Local Government Ombudsman deals with complaints that relate to adult social care. HM Inspectorate of Prisons in England inspects prisons. Some members of the parish may be visiting adults in institutions – hospitals, prisons and residential homes.

If, as part of these responsibilities, they have concerns about the care being given and/or the way that someone is being treated, the DSA should be contacted. You can also refer directly to the institution or raise concerns with the appropriate inspection and/or complaints body.

### **Definitions of adult abuse**

The UK central government document 'Care and Support Statutory Guidance' categorises and defines adult abuse in terms of:

**Physical abuse** including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions.

Possible signs of physical abuse are

- fractures
- bruising
- burns
- pain
- marks
- not wanting to be touched

**Sexual abuse** including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not consented or could not consent or was pressurised into consenting.

Possible signs of sexual abuse are

- genital itching, soreness or having a sexually transmitted disease
- using bad language
- not wanting to be touched
- behaving in a sexually inappropriate way
- changes in appearance

**Psychological abuse** including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Possible signs of psychological abuse are

- being withdrawn
- too eager to do everything they are asked
- showing compulsive behaviour
- not being able to do things they used to
- not being able to concentrate or focus

**Financial or material abuse** including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Possible signs of financial or material abuse are

- having unusual difficulty with finances
- not having enough money
- being too protective of money and things they own
- not paying bills
- not having normal home comforts

**Neglect or acts of omission** including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Possible signs of neglect or acts of omission are

- having pain or discomfort
- being very hungry, thirsty or untidy
- failing health

**Discriminatory abuse** including racist, sexist, based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

Possible signs of discriminatory abuse are

- appearing withdrawn and isolated.
- expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety.

**Domestic abuse** that is usually a systematic, repeated and escalating pattern of behaviour, by which the abuser seeks to control, limit and humiliate, often behind closed doors.

Possible signs of domestic abuse are

- A partner is jealous and possessive
- A partner is charming one minute and abusive the next
- A partner tells what to wear, where to go, who to see
- A partner controls the finances
- A partner pressures to have unwanted sex
- A partner monitors movements or messages
- A partner uses anger and intimidation to frighten and control

**Organisational abuse** including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home. This may range from one-off incidents to ongoing ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

Possible signs of organisational abuse are

- the person has no personal clothing or belongings
- there is no care plan for them
- they are admitted often to hospital
- professionals having treated them badly or unsatisfactorily or acting in a way that cause harm to the person

**Modern slavery** including human trafficking; forced labour and domestic servitude; and traffickers and slave masters using whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Possible signs of modern slavery are

- appearing to be under the control of someone else and reluctant to interact with others
- no personal identification on them
- having few personal belongings, wearing the same clothes every day or wearing unsuitable clothes for work
- unable to move around freely
- reluctant to talk to strangers or the authorities

## Reporting a safeguarding concern

Any safeguarding concerns should be brought to the attention of our Parish Safeguarding Officer in the first instance, who can seek further advice from Sharon Hassall, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), as necessary.

Our designated officers are:

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Sue Norman	Tel 01254 776895
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Sheila Fielding	Tel 01254 296409

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor is

Sharon Hassall      Tel no 01254 503088 / Mobile 07711 485 170

In an emergency situation, contact Social Services or the police directly.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of an adult call **01254 585949** from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

In an emergency out of normal office hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team on **01254 587547**, or contact the Police on **01254 51212** or dial **999**.

Please note – these contact numbers may be subject to change by the Local Authority at any time, but are checked and updated regularly by our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

*These numbers last checked 28/9/20*

## Helpful organisations

Age UK (England only – see website for rest of UK)  
Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9NA  
Tel: 0800 169 87 87  
Email: [contact@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:contact@ageuk.org.uk)  
[www.ageuk.org.uk/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/)

Action on Elder Abuse  
PO Box 60001, Streatham, London SW16 9BY.  
Tel: 020 8835 9280  
UK Helpline: 080 8808 8141  
Email: [enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk)  
[www.elderabuse.org.uk/](http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/)



Prospects for People with Learning Disabilities  
69 Honey End Lane, Reading, Berks RG30 4EL  
Tel: 0118 950 8781  
Fax: 0118 939 1683  
Email: [info@prospects.org.uk](mailto:info@prospects.org.uk)  
[www.prospects.org.uk/](http://www.prospects.org.uk/)

Through the Roof (Main UK Office):  
PO Box 353, Epsom KT18 5WS  
Phone: 01372 749955  
Fax: 01372 737040  
Email: [info@throughtheroof.org](mailto:info@throughtheroof.org)  
[www.throughtheroof.org](http://www.throughtheroof.org)

Victim Support (National office)  
Hallam House, 56–60 Hallam Street, London, W1W 6JL  
Tel: 020 7268 0200  
Fax: 020 7268 0210  
[www.victimsupport.org.uk/](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/)

Voice UK  
Rooms 100-106, Kelvin House, RTC Business Centre, London Road, DERBY DE24  
8UP  
Tel: 0808 802 8686  
[www.voiceuk.org.uk/](http://www.voiceuk.org.uk/)

Dementia Care  
The Bradbury Centre, Darrell Street, Brunswick Village, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,  
NE13 7DS  
Tel: 0191 217 1323  
[www.dementiacare.org.uk/](http://www.dementiacare.org.uk/)

Samaritans  
105 New Park Street (drop in)  
BLACKBURN  
BB2 1DF  
Tel 116 123 (Freephone)  
Email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)  
[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

The Silver Line (for anyone aged over 50)  
Tavis House  
1-6 Tivistock Square  
LONDON  
WC1H 9NA  
0800 470 8090