



Children, young people and adults at risk are part of (or belong to) our church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of them all.

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

June 2024

Romford Baptist Church
Main Road, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BL

CONTACT DETAILS FOR SAFEGUARDING AT RBC

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SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH¹

The vision of Romford Baptist Church ("the church") is: **Where God is building new lives**

In fulfilling this vision, the church:

- has programmes of activities with children and young people as well as with adults at risk
- welcomes children, young people and adults at risk into the life of our community
- makes our premises available to organisations working with children, young people and adults at risk.

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 and will pray for them regularly.

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 and responding to concern**

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children, young people and adults at risk (as defined in the footnote below), and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children, young people and adults at risk. 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.

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

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people 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, young people and adults.

- **Safe behaviour by respecting children and adults at risk**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children, young people and adults at risk so that all are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practice**

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children, young people and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer 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.

¹ For the purpose of this policy, 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'.

Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church Safeguarding Team:

ANDY STANNARD, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

They 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.

ELIZABETH ODETOLA, ETHEL KORANTENG AND ALISON SAVINE, Safeguarding Team

They 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.

ESTHER AROWOLO, Safeguarding Trustee

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

IAN BUNCE, Minister Team Leader, Safeguarding Team

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team.

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.

Policy and procedures

- A summary of the policy statement together with photos and contact details of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the foyer, Willow Hall, and Youth Lounge. A full copy of the Safeguarding document will be permanently held in the church office and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children, young people, and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary, will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and they will be kept updated of any changes to the policy.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of the church, the parents or carers of any child, young person, or adult at risk from the church or any other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The church meeting will be reminded annually of the Safeguarding Policy, its importance and where it can be found.

SECTION 2 – SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

2.1 PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNISING, RESPONDING TO AND REPORTING ABUSE

2.1.1 What to do if abuse is suspected or disclosed

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. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. For more information, please see Appendix 2.

Everyone has a responsibility in helping to safeguard children and adults at risk within the life of the church by reporting any safeguarding concerns.

- 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.

These should be reported immediately to one of the Safeguarding Team who will review and report to the Safeguarding Team. After the decision has been made as to what action should be taken, support may need to be offered to all parties (see section 2.1.7 Pastoral care, for more details). Where formal referrals are made, reports may need to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the Charity Commission at the end of the process. If a member of the church Safeguarding Team 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.

WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to and acknowledge what is being said.• Try to be reassuring & remain calm.• Explain clearly what you will do and what will happen next.• Try to give them a timescale for when and how you/one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding will contact them again.• Take action – don't ignore the situation.• Be supportive.• Tell them that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">They were right to tell you;You are taking what they have said seriously;It was not their fault;That you will pass this information on to the appropriate people, with their permission;• Be open and honest.• Give contact details for them to report any further details or ask any questions that may arise.	<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 one of the members of the Safeguarding Team.• 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.

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 immediately and the DPS called for advice. The DPS will make a full report using the Safeguarding Incident Report Form (Appendix 4).

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 the DPS and others responsible for safeguarding).

STAGE 2 – The Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

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

REVIEW AND REPORT

The report will be reviewed by the DPS with any other relevant information and a decision will be taken (often in liaison with other members of the Safeguarding Team) 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.

The London Baptist 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.

If the DPS is unavailable, 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 i.e., 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 one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding even if you do not have the consent of the adult to do so – in this instance, make sure that one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding 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”.

Two members of the Safeguarding Team will consider all the information to hand and decide whether it is appropriate for the information to be reported to the statutory authorities (see Appendices 2 and 6 for further information). If there are any concerns about an adult's mental capacity, one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding will contact the Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Team for advice.

2.1.4 Allegations against workers

If you see another worker acting in ways which concern you or might be misconstrued, speak to one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding 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 one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding, they can liaise with the relevant statutory authority and with London Baptist Safeguarding Contact if they need further advice.
- 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 one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding and stored securely and confidentially, where only those directly involved in safeguarding (one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding, Safeguarding Trustee, Minister Team Leader) 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 a Minister

Any safeguarding concerns involving a Minister should always be reported immediately by the church Safeguarding Team to the Minister Team Leader and the London Baptist 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 Minister Team Leader

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

When concerns are expressed about any member of the Safeguarding Team

Any safeguarding concerns involving any of the church Safeguarding Team or Safeguarding Trustee should be raised with the Minister Team Leader, they in turn should consult London Baptist Safeguarding Contact. Do not tell the Designated Person for Safeguarding/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 church Safeguarding Team who will speak to the police or social services about when to inform a parent. The church Safeguarding Team 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.

False allegations

False allegations are possible: all allegations will be properly investigated in an endeavour to establish the truth.

Supporting those who have experienced abuse

As a church, we are committed to caring for those who have experienced abuse, and we will refer to the Baptist Union of Great Britain website 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 DPS will also be able to locate relevant local information and contacts for anyone who may need it.

2.2 SAFER RECRUITMENT

Under the *Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000*, it is an offence for anyone disqualified from working with children and young people 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.

The Act specifically includes trustees of charities working with children. This means that a person banned from working with children cannot serve as a trustee of a church. It is also a criminal offence to knowingly offer work with children to an individual who is so disqualified or to knowingly allow such an individual to continue to work with children.

Paid workers recruitment

As a church, we are committed to safer recruitment practices. When recruiting **paid** 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) All applicants **will** be asked to complete an application form and include the names of two referees; ideally in the form of at least one professional and one personal reference;
- 4) The shortlisting of applicants should be carried out by at least two people, including the line manager or group leader directly overseeing the role being recruited for. Similarly, interviews will be carried out by at least two people, including the line manager or group leader;
- 5) References, a Self-Disclosure Form and an enhanced DBS check **must be completed** satisfactorily before the appointed person starts in their role;
- 6) An applicant's UK residency status and/or right to work in the UK will also be checked for paid church workers.

Volunteer recruitment

For volunteer staff a group leader will recruit team members who demonstrate the characteristics and skills needed for a role. The group leader will explore their suitability for the role with the individual, providing an opportunity for them to also ask questions. If they are considered suitable the appropriate policies and procedures will be shared with them. We reserve the right to take up references for those we do not know well. New members of any of the teams will be passed through the Ministry Team and the Safeguarding Team for approval. All team members must have an enhanced DBS check completed satisfactorily before they start in their role.

Appointment and supervision

The church's Safeguarding Policy will be given to and discussed with the volunteers and paid workers, and they will be kept updated of any changes to the policy. All workers will know their general role description and the clear lines of accountability to a leader and the leadership team.

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

Training

It is important that all workers understand our church's agreed Safeguarding Procedures and attend BUGB Excellence in Safeguarding training at least once every four years. Where a worker is successfully recruited but has not yet been able to attend the training, they should be given a copy of the Baptist Union of Great Britain's **Gateway to Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding** booklet and asked to complete the relevant sections. Additional specialist training will also be arranged where needed, for example, in First Aid.

Young helpers under 18 years of age

In law, young helpers 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 helpers 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 helpers need to be counted as children, not leaders. The Safeguarding Procedures apply to a young helper just as they do to any other person. Parent/carer permission needs to be sought for young helpers to attend an event or help with a children's group 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 Report Form (see Appendix 4). 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.

Further specific considerations when working with children:

- Do not invade the privacy of children or young people when they are using the toilet or shower.
- The level of assistance with personal care (e.g. toileting) must be appropriate and related to the age of the child, whilst also accepting that some children have special needs.

- Rough games involving physical contact between a worker and a child or young person are avoided.
- Sexually provocative games are avoided.
- When it is necessary to control and discipline children and young people, this should be done without using physical punishment. However, a situation may arise where a child or young person needs to be physically restrained, as a last resort, in order to protect them or a third person.
- 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 as part of a team showing mutual responsibility for each team member:

- At least two people should be present before external doors are opened for an event.
- If leader numbers are low, consider whether you could combine groups together or rearrange planned activities.
- If there are insufficient leaders for groups, the group will not run.

If workers do find themselves on their own with children or adults at risk (this should never happen if the policy is followed), they should:

- Assess the risk of sending a child/young person/adult at risk home.
- Phone another team member and let them know the situation.
- Get a second trained leader as soon as possible.
- Write down a record of what happened.
- Train additional leaders as soon as possible.

If a child/young person/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.
- Or if you are in a room on your own, leave the door open.
- You must make sure 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. The only adults allowed to participate in children's and young people's 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.

The parents/carers may or may not attend church and it is important therefore they have been given information about the group including contact telephone numbers. It may also be useful for the church/organisation to issue formal identification.

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 ON SITE activities	Recommended minimum ratio for OFF SITE 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 helpers 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., and may have limited understanding and behave in a non-age-appropriate way. Always try 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 a pastoral visit to children and their families at home on behalf of RBC. If a situation occurs where it is needed, it should be done in pairs and with the prior agreement of one of the Ministers.

3.1.4 Children or young people with no adult supervision

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

- Welcome the child/young person and try to establish their name, age, address, and telephone number and record their visit in a register.
- Ask the child/young person if a parent/carer is aware of where they are. Where possible phone and make contact.
- On leaving, give the child a consent form (see Appendix 7) and explain it needs to be filled in and brought back next time.
- Without interrogating the child/young person, you will need to find out as soon as possible whether they have any specific needs (e.g. medication) so that you can respond appropriately in an emergency.

3.1.5 Mentoring

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

- The parents/carers of all young people involved in mentoring will 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.
- Keep a basic record of dates of significant meetings, text messages and emails.
- Appropriate boundaries in regard to times and demand should be in place, i.e. not phoning or messaging late at night (9pm – 8am) etc.
- A written record should be kept of issues/decisions discussed at meetings and held securely on the church's shared safeguarding drive.

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 agreed recruitment procedures. It is accepted that groups aged 16-18 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 take place.

3.1.7 Physical contact

- Keep everything public. A hug in the context of a group is very different from a hug behind closed doors.
- Touch should be related to the child's needs, not the workers.
- Touch should be age-appropriate and generally initiated by the child rather than the worker.
- 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 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 or first aid.
- When giving personal support such as applying sun cream etc., 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.
- If a team member is unsure about whether the actions of another volunteer or worker constitutes a concern, they should raise this with the Safeguarding Team.

3.1.8 Electronic communication and social media

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 Youth Consent Form (Appendix 7), parents/carers sign to agree that the young person can receive such communications.

A worker should avoid electronic communication between the hours of 9pm – 8am, and all such communication should only happen using church accounts and church devices.

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 of primary school age and younger. For more information on cyber safety, please refer to the Baptist Union of Great Britain's **Cyber Safety Guide**, which can be found on their website as well as the **Guide to using Social Media to Communicate with Young People**, which is also available on their website.

Email

Email is sometimes used by workers to contact young people and should be limited to sharing generic information, for example, to remind young people about meetings. If email is being used, workers need to ensure messages are in the public domain by

copying each message to safeguarding@romfordbaptist.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 (e.g. WhatsApp, SnapChat, Messenger, Facebook)

Instant messenger can be used. Workers should save all conversations as a text and also keep a log of any significant communication stating with whom and when they communicated.

Mobile phones

Particular diligence needs to be applied when workers use mobile phones to communicate with young people:

- All mobile phone use will be primarily about information sharing.
- Workers should keep a log of significant conversations/texts.
- Any texts or conversations that raise concerns should be passed on/shown to the worker's supervisor.
- Workers should use clear language, particularly when texting, and should not use words such as 'luv' or abbreviations like 'lol' which could mean 'laugh out loud' or 'lots of love'.
- Paid workers will be issued with a mobile phone under a contract that provides itemised billing.
- Workers should not take photos of children, young people or adults at risk unless permission is sought in advance. Any photographs taken on personal equipment must only be uploaded to church computers or, if unavoidable, emailed to the church and the photographs deleted from their personal equipment.

Social Networking

For all workers, it should be remembered that you are a representative of Christ and therefore make sure your social pages reflect this.

- 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 video and photographs of children

Since the introduction of the Data Protection Act in 1998, churches must be very careful if they use still or moving images of clearly identifiable people. Previous legislation was reinforced through the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in May 2018. There are several issues to be aware of:

- Permission must be obtained, via the Child Consent Form (Appendix 7), 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 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), including all photographs and video recordings for personal use, such as a parent/carer taking photographs at school sports days or videoing a church nativity play.
- Children and young people under the age of 18 should not be identified by surname or other personal details, including email, postal addresses or telephone numbers.
- When using photographs of children and young people, it is preferable to use group pictures.

3.2 SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS WHEN 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 and loop system during times of open prayer so that all can hear.
- Considering holding a service which specifically caters for certain groups of adults at risk, such as those with learning disabilities, the deaf or the visually impaired.

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. Neither workers nor trustees should 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

Church computers that are used by adults at risk will have suitable parental controls and blocks put on. Although this is not fail-safe, 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

Always try 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 for at least 75 years.

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 who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs should not pastorally minister to anyone.
- 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. This information is recorded on our consent forms (Appendix 7).

The first week someone attends, workers must record their name, medical emergency information and a contact name and number. Then the new attendee must bring their completed consent form back with them when they return. 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 and will be conducted in accordance with **Guidelines for users of Romford Baptist Church**, with particular attention paid to Fire Action, First Aid, PAT testing, Health and Safety and Kitchen and Food Hygiene.

Buildings being used for children's groups and adults at risk will be properly maintained. A representative from the teams involved will take part in the 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 fire.

3.3.4 First Aid

RBC has a number of trained First Aiders. There is a list showing who they are on the First Aid boxes in the kitchens. The First Aid boxes also contain Accident and Safeguarding Incident Report Forms (Appendices 4 and 5) which must be completed in the event of any accidents, injuries, or incidents.

The Operations Manager will ensure that the contents of the First Aid boxes are checked on a regular basis. Completed Accident Forms should be passed on to the Operations Manager, or for under 18's they should be passed on to a Designated Person for Safeguarding.

As far as reasonably practical, all groups will ensure that they have sufficient trained First Aiders on their regular team so that where possible a First Aider will be present at events and activities.

3.3.5 Supervision of groups

If you are the person responsible for a group/activity, you need to make sure that you keep a register so that you know who is on the premises.

3.3.6 Food hygiene/health and hygiene

The Food Safety (England) Regulations 2013 state that anyone who handles food or whose actions could affect its safety must comply with the regulations. It follows therefore that those with responsibility for food will need to possess the Basic Food Hygiene Certificate Level 2 and be aware of food safety (preparation, handling and storage, disposal of waste, etc.).

3.3.7 Risk Assessment

Before undertaking any activity, the activity leader will ensure that a risk assessment is carried out and it is advisable to appoint someone specifically for this task.

3.3.8 Insurance

Residential activity/camp organisers will ensure with the church treasurer 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 will apply to all drivers involved in the transportation of children, young people and adults at risk, on trips organised by or on behalf of the church. They do not apply to private arrangements for transportation made, for example, between parties with parental responsibility or between friends.

- Usually 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 21 or over and have held a full driving licence for at least two years.
- The driver must ensure that they have adequate insurance cover; the vehicle will need to be road worthy.
- All hired minibuses used to transport children will have a small bus permit, the necessary insurance, 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 (unrelated to each other) should be present when transporting children as part of a church role.

3.3.10 Outings and overnight events involving children and young people

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.
- A consent form will be obtained for the specific activities involved.
- There will be leaders with First Aid and Food Hygiene Certificates with the group.
- At least one member of the Safeguarding Team should be on site for the event and deal with safeguarding aspects of the event (unless the event/activity is less than an hour's travel away in which case a member of the Safeguarding Team should be on designated standby). In the case that a member of the Safeguarding Team is responsible for the event, then they should not undertake this role as well.

Sleeping Arrangements

Sleeping arrangements for residential holidays will be considered carefully. 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 residential activity/camp organisers 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 2004, the residential activity/camp organisers need to ensure that the premises are licensed.

Fire Safety

The residential activity/camp organisers will have a fire safety procedure, which will include the following:

- Everyone will be warned of the danger of fire. If the residential activity/camp is in a building, then everyone must be made aware of the fire exits and assembly points.
- 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. It will also 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

At all times, it is the responsibility of the workers to know the whereabouts of every child/young person participating in a residential activity/camp and this may include monitoring access on and off the site. General safety rules will be applied as appropriate (e.g. no running round tents due to the risk of injury from tripping over guy lines).

Swimming Trips

There will be an increased adult to child ratio for all swimming trips and prior to the trip the swimming ability of a child/young person will be established. A swimming consent for each child (or a copy) will be taken by the group leader on the trip. 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 (i.e. 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. It is normal 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 one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding with regard to who should be involved.

An Adults at Risk Consent Form should be completed by each member of the group and held by the leader (Appendix 7). 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

Please see the church's hiring out the premises policy.

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. 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, young people, or adults at risk. 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 that a person is being bullied are as follows:

- Withdrawal from group or church activities; 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 prevent bullying the following procedures will be adopted:

- Everyone in the church, whether children, young people and adults, should know how they can report any incidents of bullying.
- 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.
- All allegations of bullying will be treated seriously, and details will be checked carefully 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 actions that are taken, in line with the church Safeguarding Procedures.
- Where an allegation of bullying is made against a church or group leader, advice will be sought from the London Baptist 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 the protection of 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 sexually abusing children, young people or adults is attending RBC, 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 has never been convicted.

In determining the details of the contract:

- the DPS will inform and take advice from the London Baptist Safeguarding Contact.
- a risk assessment will be undertaken with the help of the London Baptist Safeguarding Contact to determine the contents of the Safeguarding Contract.
- 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 rebuild 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 contact 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 must be held with the person concerned which will contribute to the risk assessment and in which clear boundaries are established for their involvement in the life of the church. A written contract should be drawn up which identifies appropriate behaviour. The person should 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 London Baptist Safeguarding Contact.

3.4.3 Alleged or known offenders who are themselves adults at risk

A risk assessment and 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. The church will work with the London Baptist Safeguarding Contact throughout this process.

SECTION 4 – USEFUL CONTACTS

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

01708 431653

lado@havering.gov.uk

Police

Contact 101 or 999 in an emergency

Adult Social Services

9am-5pm Monday to Friday 01708 432000

Out of hours/weekends 01708 433999

Children's Social Services

9am-5pm Monday to Friday 01708 433222

Out of hours/weekends 01708 433999

London Baptist Safeguarding Contact

Rachel Swaby

020 7692 5592 or 07512 196646

rachel.swaby@londonbaptist.org.uk

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 well-being 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 one of the Safeguarding Team or 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 Safeguarding 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 Team Leader), representatives of any statutory authorities involved and the London Baptist Association.

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 – A DESIGNATED PERSON FOR SAFEGUARDING (DPS)

The duty of a 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. Where possible we will always use two people (the DPS and another member of the Safeguarding Team) for all incidents.

The duty to REVIEW

In reviewing the report that is received, a 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 Team Leader 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 London Baptist 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 Team Leader
 - The London Baptist 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.

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 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each church needs to identify and fill several important posts that underpin effective safeguarding in the church. These notes outline the main responsibilities relating to safeguarding connected with key leadership roles.

Trustees / Deacons

- Ultimately responsible for safeguarding.
- Responsible for the implementation of policy and procedures.
- Responsible for supporting the church workers.
- Responsible for raising awareness about best practice within the church.
- Responsible for ensuring that the relevant people have received the appropriate training.

Safeguarding Trustee / Deacon

Not necessarily the person who heads up safeguarding in the church – could be a trustee / deacon with an interest and willingness to learn.

- Takes a lead on safeguarding matters for the trustees / deacons.
- Is the point of contact with trustees / deacons for safeguarding issues.
- Ensures church policy and procedures are reviewed annually.

Designated Person for Safeguarding

- Receives all reports of concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.
- Listens, observes and passes on those concerns appropriately, having taken advice from the relevant people.
- Acts as a link between the church and other agencies or bodies on safeguarding matters.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Verifier

- Responsible for all aspects of processing DBS checks for church staff and volunteers (with the exception of the accredited minister who is checked by the regional association).

The Minister

- Shares with the trustees the general responsibility for the adoption and implementation of the church's Safeguarding Policy.
- Takes responsibility for ensuring that the pastoral needs of all are being met.
- May need to be made aware of safeguarding issues as appropriate.

For more information:

Please see www.baptist.org.uk for more information about safeguarding in Baptist churches, including a range of specialist guides and a library of free downloadable resources.

BUGB Excellence in Safeguarding training for your church:

Information and booking arrangements for the BUGB Levels 2 and Level 3 Excellence in Safeguarding training can be made through your London Baptist association team. Please see their website for details of nearby courses or the opportunity to host safeguarding training at your church.

In an emergency:

If you find yourself facing an emergency situation, where you believe that someone attending your church is being harmed or is at imminent risk of harm, please ring the police on 999 and ask to speak to an officer in the child or adult protection teams.

Always keep records and let your DPS know that you have made this call.

APPENDIX 4

Main Road, Romford,
Essex, RM1 3BL
Tel: 01708 743382
Email: office@romfordbaptist.org.uk
Website: www.romfordbaptist.org.uk

Designated Persons for Safeguarding:
Andy Stannard
Safeguarding Team: Ian Bunce, Ethel
Koranteng, Elizabeth Odetola, Alison
Savine
Safeguarding Trustee: Esther Arowolo



SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT REPORT FORM

This form needs to be completed by one of the Designated Persons for Safeguarding (alternatively if they are unavailable, then a member of the Safeguarding Team) with the person who is reporting the incident

Name of group:

Name of Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS):

Contact details of Designated Person for Safeguarding:

Name of concerned person or to whom disclosure was given:

Contact details of concerned person or whom disclosure was given:

Name of child/person involved: Date of birth:

Address:

Phone number/email:

Incident / Disclosure

(If you need extra space, please use additional sheets)

Date: Time:

Place:

Brief details of what was happening immediately before disclosure / incident:

.....
.....
.....

APPENDIX 4

Example:

Authority	<i>Police</i>				
Name	<i>Bobby</i>				
Position	<i>Child abuse officer</i>				
Email contact	<i>bobby@police.com</i>				
Phone contact	<i>077999</i>				
Contacted by	<i>Minister</i>				
Date & time of contact	<i>1.30pm</i> <i>1/4/15</i>				

Has the Local Association been informed?

Yes	No	
------------	-----------	--

(Please do so if the statutory authorities are involved)

If so, when and by whom?

Any other action taken:

FUTURE ACTION TO BE TAKEN

What action needs to be taken?

Who is responsible for this?

Name of DPS making this report:

Telephone contact: Day: Evening: Mobile:

Signature: **Date:** **Time:**.....

Signature of minister or other member of Safeguarding Team:

Date:..... **Time:**

We are collecting this information to enable Romford Baptist Church to run church activities safely and ensure we can contact you (or other nominated adult) in case of an emergency.

Data Protection legislation allows us to process this information as we regard it as being in the church's legitimate interest. For more information about how we hold your data and your rights under Data Protection legislation please go to <https://romfordbaptist.org.uk/> and view our Privacy Notice.

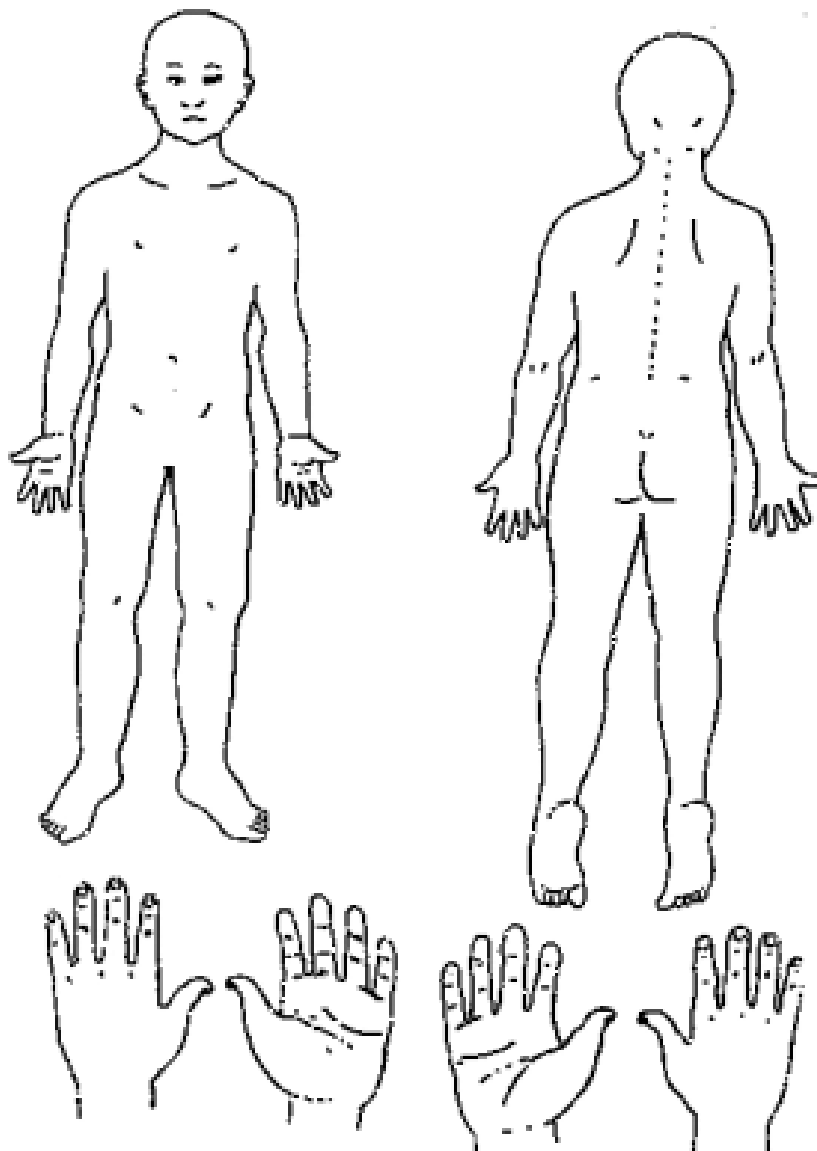
APPENDIX 4

BODY CHART

Name of Individual of Concern _____

Name of person completing this form _____

These diagrams are designed for the recording of any observable bodily injuries that may appear on the person. Where bruises, burns, cuts, or other injuries occur, shade and label them clearly on the diagram. **Remember it's not your job to investigate or to decide if an injury or mark is non-accidental. Listen, observe, and pass it on.**



Signature:

Date and Time:

APPENDIX 5

Main Road, Romford,
Essex, RM1 3BL
Tel: 01708 743382
Email: office@romfordbaptist.org.uk
Website: www.romfordbaptist.org.uk

Designated Persons for Safeguarding:
Andy Stannard
Safeguarding Team: Ian Bunce, Ethel
Koranteng, Elizabeth Odetola, Alison
Savine
Safeguarding Trustee: Esther Arowolo



ACCIDENT REPORT FORM

- Under 18

- Adult

ORGANISATION/GROUP/EVENT:

When did it happen? Date: Time:

Where did it happen?

.....

Name of injured party:

Description of accident/incident:

.....

.....

.....

Injury sustained:

.....

Treatment given:

.....

Any other action taken:

.....

Witness(es):

If a 3rd party (PARENT?) was informed, who?

Name of person making this report:

Signature: Signature of Parent:

Date: Date:

RECOMMENDATIONS TO AVOID SIMILAR INCIDENTS OCCURRING:

.....

.....

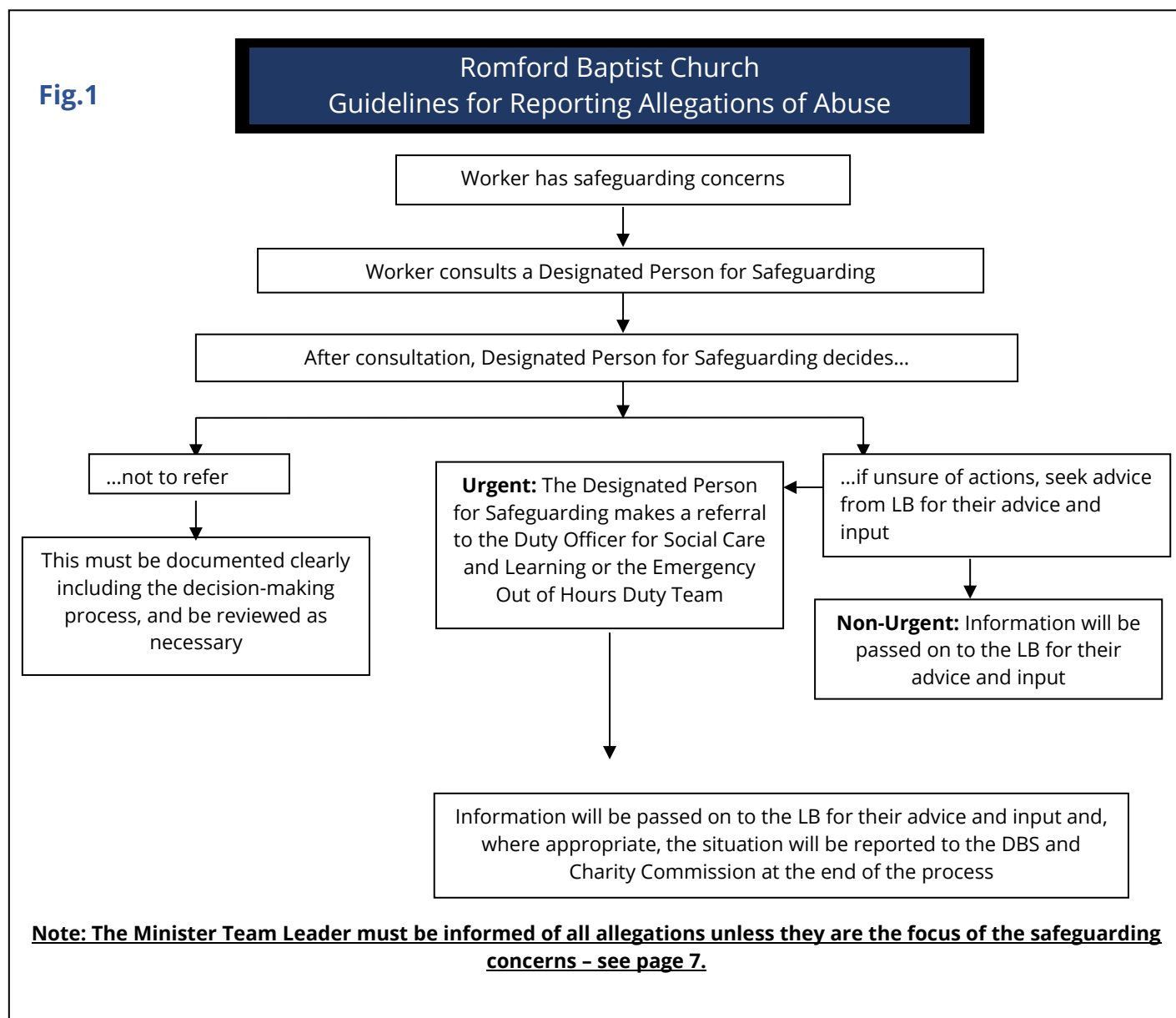
After completion, please place in the Operation Manager's pigeon hole inside the church office

We are collecting this information to enable Romford Baptist Church to run church activities safely and ensure we can contact you (or other nominated adult) in case of an emergency.

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<https://romfordbaptist.org.uk/> and view our Privacy Notice.

APPENDIX 6



What will happen next?

Once the information has been handed over, the process of professional involvement in cases of child sexual abuse will usually follow this course:

1. A strategy discussion involving Social Services, Police Child Protection team, other significant professionals and the person suspecting abuse or to whom the child had talked.
2. A decision will be taken as to whether an investigation is warranted; if so, it will then be planned.

N.B. – any investigations are undertaken by Children’s Services/Police – our responsibility is to pass on the facts, we *may* be invited to attend a strategy meeting but this is unlikely.

APPENDIX 7



CHILD CONSENT FORM (UP TO AND INCLUDING YEAR 6)

We are collecting this information to enable Romford Baptist Church to run church activities safely and ensure we can contact you (or other nominated adult) in case of an emergency.

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For more information about how we hold your data and your rights under Data Protection legislation please go to <https://romfordbaptist.org.uk/> and view our Privacy Notice.

Consent can be changed at any time by contacting one of the pastors or the church office.

Group(s) Attended:				
CONTACT DETAILS & INFORMATION				
Name of child		Date of Birth		
School		School Year		
Address		Home phone		
		Mobile phone (parent/guardian)		
		Other emergency contact number		
Preferred email contact				
MEDICAL INFORMATION (please use reverse of form to provide more details if necessary)				
Please provide details of any:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical condition or disability • Allergies • Dietary needs • Special needs 				
CONSENT (please circle)				
Do you consent to photos being taken of your child for use within the church?			Yes	No
Do you consent to video being taken of your child for use within the church?			Yes	No
Do you consent to your child appearing in un-named photos on the church website?			Yes	No
Do you consent to your child having their photo taken for local display or publicity (i.e. RBC publication, local papers, Jack Petchey etc.)?			Yes	No
In an emergency, if I cannot be contacted, I give permission for my child to receive medical treatment or necessary hospital treatment, including anaesthetic.			Yes	No
Parent/Guardian to sign and print name:				
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)				

APPENDIX 7

YOUTH CONSENT FORM (YEAR 7-13)

We are collecting this information to enable Romford Baptist Church to run church activities safely and ensure we can contact you (or other nominated adult) in case of an emergency.

Data Protection legislation allows us to process this information as we regard it as being in the church's legitimate interest. For more information about how we hold your data and your rights under Data Protection legislation please go to <https://romfordbaptist.org.uk/> and view our Privacy Notice.

Consent can be changed at any time by contacting one of the pastors or the church office.



Group(s) Attended:				
CONTACT DETAILS & INFORMATION				
Name of young person		Date of Birth		
School		School Year		
Address		Home phone		
		Mobile phone (parent/guardian)		
		Other emergency contact number		
Preferred email contact				
MEDICAL INFORMATION (please use reverse of form to provide more details if necessary)				
Please provide details of any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical condition or disability • Allergies • Dietary needs • Special needs 				
CONSENT (please circle)				
Do you consent to photos being taken of your child for use within the church?			Yes	No
Do you consent to video being taken of your child for use within the church?			Yes	No
Do you consent to your child appearing in un-named photos on the church website?			Yes	No
Do you consent to your child having their photo taken for local display or publicity (i.e. RBC publication, local papers, Jack Petchey etc.)?			Yes	No
In an emergency, if I cannot be contacted, I give permission for my child to receive medical treatment or necessary hospital treatment, including anaesthetic.			Yes	No
I give permission for recognised youth leaders/Pastors to use electronic means of communication with my child			Yes	No
Young person to sign and print name:				
Parent/Guardian to sign and print name:				
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)				

APPENDIX 7

ADULTS AT RISK CONSENT FORM



We are collecting this information to enable Romford Baptist Church to run church activities safely and ensure we can contact you (or other nominated adult) in case of an emergency.

Data Protection legislation allows us to process this information as we regard it as being in the church's legitimate interest. For more information about how we hold your data and your rights under Data Protection legislation please go to <https://romfordbaptist.org.uk/> and view our Privacy Notice.

Consent can be changed at any time by contacting one of the pastors or the church office.

CONTACT DETAILS & INFORMATION				
Name		Date of Birth		
Address		Home phone		
		Mobile phone (carer/guardian if appropriate)		
		Other emergency contact number		
Preferred email contact				
MEDICAL INFORMATION (please use reverse of form to provide more details if necessary)				
Please provide details of any:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical condition or disability • Allergies • Dietary needs • Special needs 				
Name of GP				
Address of GP	Contact number of GP			
CONSENT (please circle)				
Do you consent to photos being taken for use within the church?			Yes	No
Do you consent to video being taken for use within the church?			Yes	No
Do you consent to appearing in un-named photos on the church website?			Yes	No
Do you consent to having your photo taken for local display or publicity (i.e. RBC publication, local papers, etc.)?			Yes	No
In an emergency, if I cannot be contacted, I give permission to receive medical treatment or necessary hospital treatment, including anaesthetic.			Yes	No
Signature/Signature of Advocate or Carer (please state):				
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)				