

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Summary	
This policy states New Community Network's responsibility for the welfare and safety of children and youth, offering protection and guidance in a professional capability.	
Scope	
This policy covers New Community Network employees and workers, including CCTS our Central Counselling & Training Service, New Community Church, New Community Sholing, Baby Branch, Kibera project, and NCV.	
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1. Introduction

New Community Network has a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people they come into contact with. The need for guidelines and procedures is important to ensure that this is done with understanding and clarity. The Leadership & Trustees of New Community Network fully endorse and support the safeguarding policies for children, and adults at risk, that are implemented across the charity's projects and congregations.

The name New Community Network, whenever used in this document will refer to all departments who offer services to children or youth such as Central Counselling & Training Services, our Central and Sholing church congregations who provide activities for under 18's, our outreach projects who connect with children and youth such as Kibera Saints and Baby Bank.

The definition of a child for this policy is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.

The person with lead responsibility for safeguarding within New Community Network is:

**Elaine Davidson HR & Safeguarding Manager
& Chris Tuck Head of Operations (Deputy)**

If you are worried that a child or young person is at risk of abuse or neglect, please contact Children and Families' Social Care straight away.

Email address: childrensresourceservice@southampton.gov.uk
Members of the public can phone 023 8083 3004.

If you are a professional, please call 023 8083 2300.

Out of hours: 023 8023 3344

In an emergency call 999

All staff and volunteers are made aware of this policy and the process for reporting concerns by issuing the policy at induction.

2. Principles

New Community Network are committed to keeping the welfare of any child or young person who is involved at any point of our services paramount, ensuring that they are valued, listened to and respected.

All children or young people, whatever their gender, disability, racial or ethnic background, religious beliefs or sexual orientation have a right to a safe and caring environment when participating in any activities run by New Community Network and its associated projects and ministries, and to equal protection from any form of exploitation or abuse.

Everyone working or volunteering with us, including its trustees, employees, agency staff and volunteers is responsible for ensuring all children are safe.

We consider anyone aged under 18 to be a child for the purposes of this child protection policy. This includes the children of adult members, or service users of New Community Network.

We will promote the welfare of all children participating in our services by:

- Implementing a robust recruitment and selection process with new staff or volunteers.
- Identifying a designated lead person for each project for dealing with concerns or allegations of abuse and clear referral process.
- Providing training for all who work with us so that they are clear about their responsibilities especially regarding safeguarding best practice.
- Ensuring that any concerns of possible abuse are referred appropriately and co-operating with the work of statutory agencies as necessary.
- Structuring our services to help children to protect themselves and understand the importance of protecting others.
- Identifying and implementing good practice in relation to the care, protection and welfare of children.
- Encouraging parents and carers to be involved with the programmes and develop a relationship with New Community Network Network which promotes their child's welfare.
- Providing a whistleblowing policy that allows for an open and well-publicised way for adults and young people to voice concerns about abusive or unethical behaviour.
- Developing a listening culture where children feel confident that if they have concerns someone will listen and take them seriously.

Roles and Responsibilities

New Community Network Network aim to establish clear roles and responsibilities for all its staff and volunteers, and clarify what is expected from **everyone** in the organisation regarding their safeguarding responsibilities.

a) The Church Leadership and Designated Lead will provide:

- A Safeguarding policy for protecting children, and a procedure for what to do if there are concerns about a child's welfare.
- A named person for dealing with concerns or allegations of abuse and step-by-step guidance on what action to take.
- A rigorous recruitment and selection process for paid staff and volunteers who work with children.
- A written code of behaviour that outlines good practice when working with children.
- A training plan and regular opportunities for all those in contact with children to learn about safeguarding and health and safety.
- A whistle-blowing policy that allows for an open and well-publicised way for adults and young people to voice any concerns about abusive or unethical behaviour.
- Information for young people and for parents or carers about their safeguarding policy for protecting children, and where to go for help.
- A protective culture that puts children's interests first – children must feel confident that if they have concerns someone will listen and take them seriously.
- Guidance on taking children away on trips and on internet use: social networking policy, use of photographs and guidance on chatrooms, websites.
- Policies on bullying, cyberbullying and on health and safety.
- Policies and guidelines for those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
- Working practices when dealing with sex offenders in church.
- Pastoral support for those affected by abuse.

b) Children's Workers/Youth Leaders will ensure:

- All volunteers working with children and young adults are safely recruited, using DBS checks where appropriate.
- All volunteers have completed an application form and applied for 2 references.
- Adults awaiting DBS checks or references are sensitively supervised, never left alone with a child or children and always have a safely recruited/DBS cleared member of the team in the room or toilet area with them.
- Volunteers receive induction training regarding policies and specific group practices before they start on rota.
- All volunteers complete Level 1 Safeguarding training as soon as possible and ongoing training is monitored. This may be training received from other organisations; from the Safeguarding Manager or update training sessions from Children/Youth Leader. Training should be recorded for each volunteer.
- Records of DBS dates, and training received by volunteers, are up to date.
- Adults are not alone with a child where their activity cannot be seen. This may mean leaving doors open, or two groups working in the same room.
- Parents/carers are clear when responsibility for their child's care transfers from them to the children's worker and is returned to them at the end of the session.
- Parents of all children attending our groups complete a Registration and Consent Form giving contact details, outlining medical needs, any food allergies and giving consent, or denying permission for photographs to be taken.
- Parents can nominate other adults to collect their child if they are unable to collect them, but this must be in writing on their registration form or with the register.
- Children with special needs are fully integrated and protected within the church community.
- Care Diaries and registration of children for each session are kept up to date in ChurchSuite and any information that may be shared in Care Diary is monitored.
- Children's Workers/Youth Leaders attend further training regarding child protection.

c) Volunteer workers will always:

- Abide by the policies outlined in this handbook, and by the specific guidelines of their groups individual working practices. The day-to-day practicalities will vary within different groups but will never conflict with the core values and guidelines contained in this handbook.
- Attend regular safeguarding training. This may mean attending a course run by the Safeguarding Manager and/or periodic training from the Children's Worker or Youth Leader. If you have attended safeguarding training in other organisations then please inform your leader. This will assist us in tailoring training for you accordingly, however you will be expected to attend in-house safeguarding training applicable to the church project you serve in.
- Treat all children and young people with respect and dignity befitting their age; watching their language, tone of voice, body language and non-verbal signals.
- Control and discipline children and young people without using physical punishment or derogatory names. The behaviour policy or code of conduct will be adhered to and promoted with the children/youth.
- Report any concerns to a leader on team or to the leadership if necessary.

3. Definitions of harm - taken from Working Together Guidance 2018

Abuse

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.

These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.

They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

This is not an exhaustive list and it must be recognised that it is not the role of staff or volunteers to make an assessment of whether children or young people have suffered harm. Staff, volunteers and designated safeguarding leads do have a duty to report any concerns about harm in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Guidelines and Procedures.

Other forms of abuse

There is a brief overview at the end of this policy of other forms of abuse that can affect the children that come under our care and use our services. Having an awareness of these other types of abuse is useful, they are areas of abuse that are growing in significance as more cases come to light.

See Appendix 2: *Other forms of abuse for more information, along with contact numbers to get specific help and support.*

4. Recognition of Harm

4.1 Recognising physical abuse

The following are often regarded as indicators of concern:

- An explanation which is inconsistent with an injury;
- Several different explanations provided for an injury;
- Unexplained delay in seeking treatment;
- The parents / carers are uninterested or undisturbed by an accident or injury;
- Parents are absent without good reason when their child is presented for treatment;
- Repeated presentation of minor injuries (which may represent a 'cry for help' and if ignored could lead to a more serious injury);
- Family use of different doctors and A&E departments;
- Reluctance to give information or mention previous injuries.

All bruising in non-mobile children should be considered to be non-accidental and should be referred for an assessment.

Bite marks, scars and fractures are all indicators of concern.

Burns and scalds can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental and will always require experienced medical opinion. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g.:

- Circular burns from cigarettes (but may be friction burns if along the bony protuberance of the spine);
- Linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements;
- Burns of uniform depth over a large area;
- Scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid (a child getting into hot water of its own accord will struggle to get out and cause splash marks);
- Old scars indicating previous burns/scalds which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation.
- Scalds to the buttocks of a small child, particularly in the absence of burns to the feet, are indicative of dipping into a hot liquid or bath.

4.2 Recognising emotional abuse

Emotional abuse may be difficult to recognise, as the signs are usually behavioural rather than physical. The manifestations of emotional abuse might also indicate the presence of other kinds of abuse.

The indicators of emotional abuse are often also associated with other forms of abuse.

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse:

- Developmental delay;
- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent/carer e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or no attachment;
- Indiscriminate attachment or failure to attach;
- Aggressive behaviour towards others;
- Scapegoated within the family;

- Frozen watchfulness, particularly in preschool children;
- Low self esteem and lack of confidence;
- Withdrawn or seen as a 'loner' - difficulty relating to others.

4.3 Recognising sexual abuse and exploitation

Boys and girls of all ages may be sexually abused and exploited and are frequently scared to say anything due to guilt and/or fear. This is particularly difficult for a child to talk about and a full account should be taken of the cultural sensitivities of any individual child / family.

Recognition can be difficult, unless the child discloses and is believed. There may be no physical signs and indications are likely to be emotional / behavioural.

Some behavioural indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Inappropriate sexual conduct;
- Sexually explicit behaviour, play or conversation, inappropriate to the child's age;
- Continual and inappropriate or excessive masturbation;
- Self-harm (including eating disorder), self mutilation and suicide attempts;
- Indiscriminate choice of sexual partners;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- An anxious unwillingness to remove clothes for - e.g. sports events (but this may be related to cultural norms or physical difficulties);
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late;
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education;
- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol.

Some physical indicators associated with this form of abuse are:

- Pain or itching of genital area;
- Blood on underclothes;
- Pregnancy in a younger girl where the identity of the father is not disclosed;
- Physical symptoms such as injuries to the genital or anal area, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and thighs, sexually transmitted infections, presence of semen on vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing.

A child under 13 years is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 involving a child aged under 13 years is very serious and should be taken to indicate that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm. Cases involving children under 13 years old will always be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, penetrative sex with a child under 13 years old is classed as rape. Where the allegation concerns penetrative sex, or other intimate sexual activity occurs, there would always be reasonable cause to suspect that a child, whether girl or boy, is suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm. There should be a presumption that the case will be reported to Children's Services/MASH.

Sexual activity with a child aged **under 16 years** is also an offence. Where it is consensual it may be less serious than if the child were aged under 13 years but may, nevertheless, have serious consequences for the welfare of the young person. Consideration should be given in every case of sexual activity involving a child aged 13-15 as to whether there should be a discussion with other agencies and whether a referral should be made to Children's Services/MASH.

Sexual activity involving a **16 or 17 year old**, even if it does not involve an offence, may still involve harm or the likelihood of harm being suffered. It is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old if they hold a position of trust or authority in relation to them.

4.4 Recognising Neglect

Evidence of neglect is built up over a period of time and can cover different aspects of parenting. Indicators include:

- Failure by parents or carers to meet the basic essential needs e.g. adequate food, clothes, warmth, hygiene and medical care;
- A child seen to be listless, apathetic and unresponsive with no apparent medical cause;
- Failure of child to grow within normal expected pattern, with accompanying weight loss;
- Child thrives away from home environment;
- Child frequently absent from school;
- Child left with adults who are intoxicated or violent;
- Child abandoned or left alone for excessive periods.

4.5 The harm or possible harm of a child may come to the church's attention in a number of ways;

- Information given by the child, his/ her friends, a family member or close associate.
- The child's behaviour may become different from the usual, be significantly different from the behaviour of their peers, be bizarre or unusual or may involve 'acting out' a harmful situation in play.
- An injury which arouses suspicion because:
 - It does not make sense when compared with the explanation given.
 - The explanations differ depending on who is giving them (e.g., differing explanations from the parent / carer and child).
 - The child appears anxious and evasive when asked about the injury.
- Suspicion being raised when a number of factors occur over time, for example, the child fails to progress and thrive in contrast to his/her peers.

- The parent's behaviour before the birth of a child may indicate the likelihood of significant harm to an unborn child, for example substance misuse, or previous children removed from their carers.

- **Contact with individuals who pose a 'risk to children'** ('Guidance on Offences Against Children', Home Office Circular 16/2005). This replaces the term 'Schedule One Offender' and relates to an individual that that has been identified as presenting a risk or potential risk of harm to children.

This can be someone who has been convicted of an offence listed in Schedule One of the Children and Young Person's Act 1933 (Sexual Offences Act 2003), or someone who has been identified as continuing to present a risk to children. New Community Network have processes and practices to manage offenders, often working with the Offender Management Team from Hampshire Police.

5. Acting on concerns – recording what you see, or are told by a child

If a member of staff or a volunteer has minor concerns about a child's welfare they should record this following our **recording concerns procedures on ChurchSuite**.

There will be children who are not suffering from significant risk of harm or abuse, perhaps you notice small one-off concerns, but over time it might be that a pattern of small concerns become a worry.

Those children who are in need of extra support and care can be helped through support offered to parents who may be struggling with a wide range of issues. Poor parenting can come from many pressures on families, and with the help of universal services in the area, go on to improve and provide a good home for their family.

Tracking concerns in the ChurchSuite system will monitor this. However, if there is no improvement due to the parent not engaging, and a child continues to struggle and not thrive then this will need to be recorded more formally and referred to Children's Services.

No professional, staff or volunteer should assume that someone else will pass on information which they think may be critical to keeping a child safe.

Managing a disclosure

If a child tells you they are suffering from abuse, then you will need to manage that disclosure sensitively and record what you were told ready to refer it to the police or children's services as needed. Remember to record what the child told you in their own words, stay as close to what you were told without adding your opinions.

- Listen to what the child has to say with an open mind.
- Do not ask probing or leading questions designed to get the child to reveal more.
- Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Make note of the discussion, taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, as well as what was said.
- Do not ask children to write a statement.
- Never promise the child that what they have told you can be kept secret. Explain that you have responsibility to report what the child has said to someone else.
- The designated lead for child protection in your church or project must be informed immediately, and/or a member of the leadership team.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.

Although concerns can be noted in the ChurchSuite app, if any member of the team believes a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm, then they should record the information on a **Safeguarding Incident Report Form** and share the information with the NextGen Leaders or Safeguarding Manager. They will inform the local authority children's services as needed, or the police (Working Together 2018).

See appendix 3 Safeguarding Incident Report Form

6. Referring or reporting concerns about a child

The designated safeguarding lead or (other) will act on behalf of New Community Network in referring concerns or allegations of harm to Southampton Children's Services. However you are able to contact them direct should you have a concern about any child and don't feel we have managed it in a sufficient way, or you have a concern about a child outside the church. There are different services offered for children and families, depending on the level of concern, from Early Help through Children's Resource Service, through to child protection help from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

From Southampton City Council – Children's Service page:

Children's Resource Service

The aim of the Children's Resource Service is to ensure that children and their families receive the right help at the right time.

If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child, please call the police on 999. Once you have done this, please share your concerns with the Children's Resource Service by telephone. If you are a professional, you will need to follow this up by completing the online referral form.

If you are looking for help for your own child or family, or for a family you know in a personal or professional capacity, we would encourage you to contact the service by telephone for a discussion. We will give you information about the local support that is available and offer you advice and guidance.

If you are a professional you can contact the Children's Resource Service on **02380 83 2300** (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm) or **02380 23 3344** (weekends, Bank Holidays and outside of office hours)

If you are a young person, parent, carer or member of the public you can contact the Children's Resource Service on **02380 83 3004** (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm) or **02380 23 3344** (weekends, Bank Holidays and outside of office hours)

If you are a child, young person, parent or carer, and you would like to discuss your worries or seek advice and support please get in touch! You can contact the Children's Resource Service on **02380 83 3004** (office hours) or **02380 23 3344** (outside of office hours).

In most instances when we are contacted about a child, young person or family we will decide what we need to do next within 24 hours.

We may:

- Provide advice and guidance
- Ask our Early Help Service (Children and Families First) to get involved
- Gathering more information to help us to decide what to do next to provide the help and protection that children young people and families need. We do this through our MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)
- Passing a referral to Children's Social Care to undertake an assessment. This includes children who need help from the Children with Disabilities team or the Young Person's Service

What should I do if I am worried about a child?

One of our main priorities at Southampton City Council is that children and young people in Southampton get a good start in life and can go on to fulfil their potential. If you are concerned about a child or young person, it is important to take action. There are several

options available so we have provided more information to help you decide what to do next. This information is relevant for both professionals and members of the public.

Child protection & safeguarding for children in need

When it's not an emergency situation but you are worried that a child may be at risk of abuse, harm or neglect, please contact us. Find out more about these risks and [how to report a concern](#). You can also contact us straight away on **023 8083 3004**.

Or in an emergency contact the police by telephone on 999

NSPCC Freephone Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000

New Community Network and all its projects commit to ensure that any significant concern will be passed on to the appropriate agency, such as the police or Children's Services.

Urgent referrals relating to Child Protection

If anyone at New Community Network or its projects believe that urgent action is needed because, for example, a child is in immediate danger **please call children's services or 999 if necessary**.

It is not the role of the designated safeguarding lead to undertake an investigation into the concerns or allegation of harm. It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to collate and clarify details of the concern or allegation and to provide this information to our local children's services whose duty it is to make enquiries in accordance with Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

If there are situations where the nominated people are not available to take the concern to the relevant agencies, then every member of the public has a duty to report a concern, so please feel free to contact Children's Services or the Police directly.

Seeking Medical Attention

If a child has a physical injury and there are concerns about abuse:

If medical attention is required then this should be sought immediately by phoning for an ambulance, attending the Emergency Department or Minor Injury Unit depending on the severity of the injury. You should then follow the procedures for referring a child protection concern to Children's Services as before. Any safeguarding concerns should be shared with the Ambulance staff/ Medical and Nursing staff in order that they can appropriately assess and treat the child and share relevant information.

Allegations of physical injury, neglect or emotional abuse.

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Officer/Deputy will contact Children's Services as before but will not tell the parents or carers unless Children's Services have advised the church to do so.

Allegations of sexual abuse

If there are concerns regarding sexual abuse or a disclosure from a child regarding sexual abuse, then the Designated Safeguarding Officer/Deputy will immediately contact the police or children's services. This must not be shared with the parent/carer and the professional agencies will take over this process.

If there is concern about an adult also suffering from abuse in the situation you are dealing with for the child, then the Designated Safeguarding Officer/Deputy must be informed and if necessary will contact Adult Safeguarding Services on **023 8083 3003**.

The procedures remain the same for recording and reporting: a record must be made of the concerns seen, or of the disclosure of abuse recorded. A call must be made to the Adult Safeguarding Team, or the emergency services if they need medical attention or a crime has been committed.

Please refer to our Safeguarding Adults Policy for further information under the Care Act 2014. This also includes the many different forms of abuse adults face such as domestic violence, financial abuse, hate crime and institutional abuse, and others.

Consent (See appendix 1: 7 golden rules on information sharing)

Professional's should seek to discuss any concerns with the family (including the child where appropriate) and where possible seek their agreement to making referrals. This should only be done where such discussion and agreement seeking will not place the child at an increased risk of significant harm.

It should be noted that parents, carers or child may not agree to information being shared, but this should not prevent referrals where child protection concerns persist. The reasons for dispensing with consent from the parents; carer or child should be clearly recorded.

In cases where an allegation has been made against a family member living in the same household as the child and it is your view that discussing the matter with the parent would place the child at risk of harm, or where discussing it may place a member of staff / volunteer at risk, consent does not have to be sought prior to the referral being made.

7. Recruitment and Selection

It is important when recruiting paid staff and volunteers, to adhere to New Community Network's recruitment policy. This will ensure potential staff and volunteers are screened for their suitability to work with children and young people.

New Community Network recognises its staff and volunteers being essential to its success. As well as appointing staff and volunteers with the right skills and attributes to fulfil our strategic aims and values, we also provide a robust recruitment and selection process to ensure all who are appointed are safely recruited to work with both adults and children.

We work with the standards and processes outlined by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to make safer recruitment decisions, and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children.

A person who is barred from working with children or adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer or try to work or volunteer with those groups.

New Community Network understand they should never knowingly employ someone who is barred to work with these groups as they would be breaking the law. If there is an incident where a member of staff or volunteer is dismissed because they have harmed a child or adult, or would have been if they had not left, New Community Network will notify the Local Authority Designated Officer. There may also be a need to refer this information to the Disclosure & Barring Service, but we will take advice regarding this from the LADO. Our full recruitment and selection process are available on request and is covered in safer recruitment training.

Recruiting ex-offenders

We do not discriminate against those who have other criminal offences that do not bar them from working with children. We will always assess the risk in any situation and look to place those that have previous convictions or cautions in roles that best suit them.

8. Code of Practice/Behaviour Code

New Community Network issue a code of conduct to all staff and volunteers during their induction period outlining expectations of conduct during their time serving or ministering. The code of conduct we adhere to is at **Appendix 4**.

9. Managing offenders who pose a risk

For those that do pose a risk to children or adults through convictions that include sexual or violent crimes, New Community Network will work with all agencies and the advice given either by police or probation from the Offender Management Team, or Multi Agency Public Protection Agency advice (MAPPA).

Each offender will be issued a behavior contract confirming how their attendance at church will be managed. This might involve having an escort, restrictions on movement around the building, along with further assessments made for other events such a Church BBQ's or home groups.

10. Allegations against staff members / volunteers

If any member of staff or volunteer has concerns about the behaviour or conduct of another individual working within the group or organisation including:

- Behaving in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children, the nature of the allegation or concern should be reported to the Designated Officer for dealing with allegations within the organisation immediately.

The member of staff who has a concern about a team member, or to whom an allegation or concern is reported should not question the child or investigate the matter further.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer will report the matter to the Designated Officer within Children's Services at the Local Authority. This position was formally known as Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the term is still often in use.

New Community Network will always report any member of staff or volunteer they have concerns about to the appropriate authorities depending on the seriousness of the situation. We will take all advice offered to us and co-operate fully.

Appendix 1: Seven Golden rules of information sharing

In July 2018, the government published revised practice guidance "*Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers*". Below are the 7 golden rules of information sharing that this guidance recommends in line with the new data protection laws.

1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice from other practitioners if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
5. Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

Appendix 2: Other forms of abuse

Domestic Violence

Definition – (Home Office, 2013) *For the purpose of this policy domestic violence is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.*

Under the Serious Crime Act 2015, the government announced a new domestic violence law criminalising patterns of coercive, controlling and psychological abuse. The new offence carries a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment, a fine or both. Children are hugely affected by domestic abuse and violence, often going on to become victims of the violence themselves. However, the impact emotionally to children has been seen to cause significant harm to them. A high percentage of serious case reviews, and those children on child protection plans have domestic violence as a key concern.

Forced Marriage

Children from some communities in the UK are still being forced into marriage at a very young age and those of any age, especially those without mental capacity to make a choice. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. This includes taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place); marrying someone who lacks mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured or not); Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order. Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison.

Honour Based Violence

Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community.

It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture. For example, honour based violence might be committed against people who become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion; want to get out of an arranged marriage; want to get out of a forced marriage; wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture.

Women and girls are the most common victims of honour based violence however it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of 'honour' do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' might include: (Safe.Met.Police.UK)

- domestic abuse
- threats of violence
- sexual or psychological abuse
- forced marriage
- being held against your will or taken somewhere you don't want to go
- assault

Honour based violence will commonly start when children try to live and fit in a more westernised culture, starting relationships which causes shame and distress to the family. Take any concerns a person may have about their safety seriously and seek professional help immediately. Do not try to resolve this in anyway yourself.

Female Genital Mutilation

Between April 2016 and March 2017, there were 9,179 attendances reported at NHS trusts and GP practices where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken (Health & Social Care Information Centre). City University London figures suggest that nearly 10,000 girls under 14 years of age have undergone FGM in the UK. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it illegal to: practice FGM in the UK; take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM, whether or not it is lawful in the country of destination; aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad. If you are concerned a child may be taken abroad for FGM, or that it may have already occurred please contact support helplines in Appendix 4.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation can take many forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for attention/affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime and child trafficking. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.

“Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability”. (From ‘Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation’, Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children.)

Trafficking

Human trafficking is essentially the recruitment, movement or receipt of a person by deception or coercion into a situation of exploitation, this may include:

- prostitution (or other forms of sexual exploitation)
- forced labour
- slavery
- servitude, or
- the removal of organs¹.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275239/Human_trafficking.pdf
[accessed online on 28.1.2015]

Exploitation by radicalisers who promote violence involves the exploitation of susceptible people who are drawn into violent extremism by radicalisers. Violent extremists often use a persuasive rationale and charismatic individuals to attract people to their cause. The aim is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. The Prevent Strategy, launched in 2007, seeks to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It is the preventative strand of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018

Child criminal exploitation: county lines County Lines: Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults (Home Office Guidance)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf

New Community Network recognise that criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity - drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Southampton in particular has very real and current problems across areas of the city where children are at high risk.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.

Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs, and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered.

Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. Any person who has concerns that may include criminal exploitation of a child should report their concern to the DSL without delay. The DSL will contact the multi-agency safeguarding hub for advice.

Appendix 3: New Community Network Incident Reporting Form

Details of Child/Children and their parents/Carer		
Name of child:		
Gender: Male/Female	Age:	Date of birth:
Parent's/ Carer's names(s):		
Home Address:		
Contact numbers:		
Your Details:		
Your name:	Your Position	Date and time of incident:
Report:		
Are you reporting your own concerns or responding to concerns raised by someone else?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Responding to my own concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Responding to concerns raised by someone else	If responding to concerns raised by someone else, give their name and position within church/group:	
Please provide details of the incident or concerns you have, including times, dates or other relevant information (describe and injuries) and whether fact, opinion or hearsay:		
The child's account of what has happened and how:		
Please provide details of the person alleged to have caused the incident/injury including where possible any details:		
Please provide details of any witnesses to the incident(s):		

Have you spoken to the parents? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes please provide details of what was said:	
Have you spoken to the child? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes please provide details of what was said:	
Have you spoken to the person against whom the allegations are being made? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes please provide details of what was said:	
Further action taken to date:		
What other agencies are you aware of that are involved with the family, and have you contacted any of them? E.g. school, GP, Health visitor, preschool etc.		
Have you informed the statutory authorities? Children's Social Care: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please provide name and number of person contacted: <input type="checkbox"/> No Police: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please provide name and number of person contacted: <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Data protection As the person completing this form, you must notify each person whose information you include about what will happen to their information and how it may be disclosed except to the extent that doing so would prejudice either the prevention or detection of a crime or the apprehension or prosecution of an offender		
Signature		
Your signature	Date	Time

Appendix 4: Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Staff Working Indirectly with Children, Young People, and Adults

Although your role may not be directly involved with caring for children and young people, (those under 18), or adults who may be vulnerable or at risk, we all have a duty of care to act appropriately, set a good example around them, and if needed, we must all be prepared to act should we see something that concerns us about the welfare of a child or adult.

Safeguarding is "Everyone's Responsibility", and although you may not have direct contact with children or adults who may be vulnerable, we expect you to understand what to do when there is a concern, and how you should carry out your role within safe and professional boundaries. These boundaries are outlined in this Code of Conduct, required for all staff and volunteers who may be in indirect contact with children and others who may be vulnerable to abuse. Being clear about safeguarding standards and following the Code of Conduct, protect children, and protects staff and volunteers from false accusations.

There are extra responsibilities for support staff employed to serve in Hope Community School, and we address these in this handout.

All staff and volunteers with indirect contact with children will be safely recruited, completing application forms, having an interview, and providing us with referees to contact. Hope Community School staff, although having indirect contact with children, are required to have an Enhanced DBS check. New Community will process this with staff who need it and pay for this to be carried out.

Personal Code of Conduct

We expect all staff and volunteers to:

- Respect all individuals whatever their age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or race. We uphold all aspects of the Equality Act 2010.
- Place the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or adult in need of support, first. Their wellbeing must be placed before any personal or organisational goals and before loyalty to friends and colleagues.
- Form appropriate boundaries and professional interactions with children, young people and adults.
- Remember you have a position of power and trust whilst working or volunteering in your role at church or across the services we provide. Even if you do not think so, children and people in general will trust that you will be safe towards them.
- Be committed to actively preventing the exploitation of abuse of children, young people and adults who might be vulnerable and at risk.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour from any team member, and ALWAYS raise concerns with your team leader, supervisor or Safeguarding Lead if you think someone is acting inappropriately towards a child or adult, or you have concerns about anyone's welfare.

For all staff and volunteers who may be working or volunteering in any public area, or situation where you see a child, or adult being mistreated verbally, physically or demeaning in anyway, please act by either reporting it to someone on team. In

certain situations, in your position as a supervisor or steward, it may be appropriate to approach the situation to support, but never do this in a lone situation.

If you are able to approach the situation, such as in Central Coffee where you may be able to ask if you can help in anyway, please feel free to chat with the customer initially, or the person who may be at risk of abuse. Perhaps in your role as a steward you would be able to approach the situation in the same way, however, DO NOT put yourself in any danger, instead take action by reporting the incident to your supervisor, or a member of the team straight away.

For Hope Community School support staff such as Chaplain, cleaners/caretakers and building staff, there are further requirements for safeguarding practices to adhere to.

- We would ask you to report any situation you are concerned about, direct to the Hope School Safeguarding Leads or Deputy. You are required to read the Hope Community School 'Safeguarding Quick Guide', during your induction and sign to show that you have read and understood the safeguarding reporting procedures.
- We also require you to complete PREVENT on-line training during your induction and you will receive a certificate that will record your completion of this. Time will be given on a New Community computer to complete this on your shift.
- You will be issued with a fob to access school classrooms etc. This must be kept secure and with you at all times and returned back to the safe or your supervisor after use.
- Every time you enter the school whilst children are on site you are required to sign in to record you are on the premises, both for safeguarding and fire safety reasons. Please ensure you sign in at reception, and then sign out when you have finished your shift, or any building or caretaking work you may have carried out.
- When children are onsite, please ensure you inform the reception staff where you are intending to work. If you are working alone it is especially important you account for your time onsite, for your own reputational safety.
- If you are working in places where children may inadvertently put you in a position where they are alone with you, especially such as coming into a toilet area you are cleaning or repairing, please ensure you remove yourself immediately.
- Ensure you follow all the previous standards of our personal code of conduct and remember that it is especially important to put yourself above reproach or suspicions.

The Hope School Chaplain will require more specific safeguarding input and should also read the full Hope School Safeguarding Code of Conduct for guidance.

If you have any concerns or queries arising from reading this Code of Conduct, please discuss with Flora Hinks who oversees the Chaplain's role or Elaine Davidson who oversees Safeguarding for New Community Network and its associated projects and services.