**Introduction to the model safeguarding policy**

The policy and procedures have been divided into five sections covering all 10 Thirtyone:eight safeguarding standards. Along with details of the organisation and a statement of intent and commitment to safeguarding, the policy covers the following sections:

**Section 1. Place of worship / organisation details**

Safe and Secure – Standard 1

**Section 2. Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse**

Safe and Secure – Standards 2 and 7

**Section 3. Prevention**

Safe and Secure – Standards 3 and 4

**Section 4. Pastoral care**

Safe and Secure – Standards 8 and 9

**Section 5. Practice guidelines**

Safe and Secure – Standards 5, 6 and 10

**Appendix 1. Leadership safeguarding statement**

**Appendix F Definitions of Abuse**

**Appendix G Signs and Symptoms of Abuse**

**Oxford Vineyard Church**

**Safeguarding Policy**

**Section 1**

**Details of the place of worship / organisation**

Name of Place of Worship / Organisation: Oxford Vineyard Church (hereafter “OVC”)

Registered Address: Stowford Farm, Bayswater Road, Headington

Tel No: 01865 522338 Email address: office@ovc.uk.com or [AndrewM@ovc.uk.com](mailto:AndrewM@ovc.uk.com) Website: www.ovc.uk.com

Membership of Denomination/Organisation The Oxford Vineyard Church is a Christian Church and a member of the Evangelical Alliance. Registered in England and Wales.

Charity Number: 1064237

Insurance Company Public Liability Insurance with ***Ansvar***

**Church Statement**

OVC has a growing children’s and young people’s ministry and takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to its care.

Why have a child protection policy? The following is taken from the Department of Health, Department for Education and Employment and the Home Office joint document, Working Together to Safeguard Children (1999):

'Experience has shown that children can be subjected to abuse by those who work with them in any and every setting. All allegations of abuse of children by a professional, staff member, foster carer or volunteer (from ACPC member agencies) should therefore be taken seriously and treated in accordance with local child protection procedures. Other organisations which provide services for children (including day care, leisure, churches, other places of worship and voluntary services) should have a procedure for handling such allegations which is consistent with this guidance and with ACPC procedures.

*There should be clear written procedures in place which are available for scrutiny by service users, and which are supported by the training and supervision of staff. It is essential that all allegations are examined objectively by staff who are independent of the service, organisation or institution concerned. (Para 6.13)'*

OVC is committed to:

* Listening to, relating effectively with and valuing children and young people whilst ensuring their protection within church activities.
* Encouraging and supporting parent/carers.
* Ensuring that children/youth workers are safely recruited and supervised and given support and training.
* Having a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
* Maintaining good links with the statutory child care authorities.
* Identifying a named lead for Child Protection procedures in the Church.

## Areas Of Policy

OVC recognises that a significant number of children and young people in the UK today are the victims of neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The main purpose of this document is firstly and above all to protect children in the care of OVC from abuse or neglect and secondly to protect children/young people’s workers from false or malicious accusations. Accordingly, the Trustees have adopted the policy contained in this document, (hereafter “the policy”). The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to the following areas:

* Appointing children/youth workers.
* Supervision of activities and practice issues.
* Responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against leaders or members of the church.
* Helping victims of abuse.
* Working with offenders.

OVC recognises the need to build constructive links with the child care agencies. Accordingly, these guidelines have been prepared in consultation with the Oxfordshire Local Authority and Thirtyone:eight (formerly the CCPAS) who hold a copy of this policy.

OVC provides Sunday activities for children and youth aged 18months to 18 years following a planned set of teaching notes taken from various Christian Youth magazines and resources.

**Our commitment**

As a Leadership we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to “all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”. We also concur with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child.” As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on the ten **Safe and Secure** safeguarding standards published by Thirtyone:eight.

The Leadership undertakes to:

* endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
* provide on-going safeguarding training for all its workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.
* ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.
* support the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and vulnerable adults.
* file a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with Thirtyone:eight and any amendments subsequently published. The Leadership agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

**Section 2**

**Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse**

**Understanding abuse and neglect**

Defining child abuse or abuse against a vulnerable adult is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm, or failing to prevent harm. Children and adults in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or in a trusted relationship with the child or vulnerable adult.

In order to safeguard those in our places of worship and organisations we adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 19 which states:

*1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*

*2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.*

Also for adults the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular reference to Article 5 which states:

*No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*

Detailed definitions, and signs and symptoms of abuse, as well as how to respond to a disclosure of abuse, are included here in our policy.

Definitions of abuse See Appendix F

Signs and symptoms of abuse See Appendix G

**Safeguarding awareness**

The Leadership is committed to on-going safeguarding training and development opportunities for all workers, developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect everyone.**All our workers will receive induction training and undertake recognised safeguarding training on a regular basis.**

The Leadership will also ensure that children and vulnerable adults are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

**RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE**

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. Following procedures as below:

* The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to **Aileen Curtis (hereafter the "Safeguarding Co-ordinator") tel no: 07557 129288** who is nominated by the Leadership to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
* In the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, then the report should be made to Andrew Myatt tel no:07941 072071. If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the Deputy, then the report should be made in the first instance to **Thirtyone:eight, PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0303** **003** **1111**. Alternatively contact Social Services or the police. **01865 815434**, the out of hours number known as the Emergency Duty Team is **0800 833408**.
* Where the concern is about a child the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should contact Children’s Social Services. Where the concern is regarding an adult in need of protection contact Adult Social Services or take advice from Thirtyone:eight as above.

The local Children’s Social Services office telephone number (office hours 9am - 5pm) is **01865 815434**. The out of hours emergency number is **0800 833408**.

The local Adult Social Services office telephone number (office hours) is **0845 050 7666**. The out of hours emergency number is **0800 833408** (freephone)

* Where required the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should then immediately inform the insurance company and other strategic personnel within the denomination.
* 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.
* Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Deputy should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from CCPAS.
* The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
* It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:eight, although the Leadership hope that members of the place of worship / organisation will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrate its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the safeguarding co-ordinator/ deputy is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

**Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:**

**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 Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will after discussion with Andrew Myatt, Senior Leader:

* Contact Children’s Social Services (or Thirtyone:eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
* Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children’s Social Services.
* Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
* For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
* Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children’s Social Services direct for advice.
* Seek and follow advice given by Thirtyone:eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children’s Social Services.

**ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will after discussion with Andrew Myatt, Senior Leader

* Contact the Children’s Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
* Seek and follow the advice given by Thirtyone:eight if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children’s Social Services/Police. Thirtyone:eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.
* Under no circumstances will the Co-ordinator or the Leadership Staff attempt to carry out any investigation into the allegation or suspicions of sexual abuse. The role of the Co-ordinator is to collect and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and to provide this information to the Social Services Department, whose task it is to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

**The following procedure will be followed where there is a concern that an adult is in need of protection:**

**SUSPICIONS OR ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE**

If a vulnerable adult has a physical injury or symptom of sexual abuse the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

* Discuss any concerns with the individual themselves giving due regard to their autonomy, privacy and rights to lead an independent life.
* If the vulnerable adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.
* For advice contact the Adult Social Care Vulnerable Adults Team who have responsibility under Section 47 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and government guidance, ‘No Secrets’, to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively Thirtyone:eight can be contacted for advice.

**ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST A PERSON WHO WORKS WITH CHILDREN**

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will need to liaise with Children’s Social Services in regards to the suspension of the worker, also making a referral to a Safeguarding Adviser (SA) / Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

**Section 3**

**Prevention**

**Safe recruitment**

The Leadership will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with government guidance on safe recruitment. This includes ensuring that:

* There is a written job description / person specification for the post
* Those applying have completed an application form and a self declaration form
* Those short listed have been interviewed
* Safeguarding has been discussed at interview
* Written references have been obtained, and followed up where appropriate
* A disclosure and barring check has been completed (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information)
* Qualifications where relevant have been verified
* A suitable training programme is provided for the successful applicant
* The applicant has completed a probationary period
* The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation’s safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.
* References will be taken up by the relevant age group co-ordinator. The applicant’s Connection Group leader will be asked to countersign the application form.
* The criteria for NOT appointing children’s workers are:
  1. Disclosure of a previous offence against children.
  2. Refusal to fully complete the application procedure.
  3. In the opinion of the age group coordinator, (after discussion with the applicant’s Connection group leader) the applicant is not suited to the job.
  4. Refusal to attend the relevant training session.
* Children’s workers will be given opportunities to meet together with a leader to discuss work programmes and areas of concern including issues relating to discipline.
* The appointment of workers will be reviewed on a regular basis.
* Where it may be appropriate to use volunteer parent/carer helpers to help provide additional support, these individuals will only be allowed to assist alongside an approved worker. They will NOT be left in sole charge of any child.

**Management of Workers – Codes of Conduct**

As a Leadership we are committed to supporting all workers and ensuring they receive support and supervision. All workers have been issued with a code of conduct towards children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Leadership undertakes to follow the principles found within the ‘Abuse Of Trust ‘guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

General Safety Matters

* We will strive to provide a safe environment for children. We aim to provide clear access and good lighting thus reducing the risk of physical injury. Team members will attempt to be aware of possible hazards in the room or in an activity, and do what they can to limit the risks. We will attempt to prevent or stop dangerous behaviour by the children.
* Workers should be aware of Fire procedures.
* There will be clearly marked First-Aid boxes available at all activities. First aid should be carried out by a trained first aider.
* Any accidents or incidents must be recorded in the Accident/Incident Book, and the parent/carer should sign to show that they have been made aware. Explorers co-ordinator should also be informed and the accident/incident form completed. This form will be signed by the coordinator and brought to the attention of a Leadership Staff member.
* No smoking is permitted in areas where there are children.
* Workers should not misuse alcohol and other drugs while they have children in their care. The Co-ordinator or Team leader should be informed if a worker is taking prescribed medication which may affect their judgement and/or character and/or ability to put the child’s safety first.

**Registration and Collection of Children**

Explorers & Fireside

Children are registered by their parent/carer for each session and accompanied by them during the event. Families work together during the event and children are the responsibility of their parent/carer at all times. The team members are there to support the family.

## **Practical Guidelines for all Staff and Volunteers**

* Staff and volunteers should not normally be alone with a young person (of either sex). The occasions when a single adult is alone with a young person should be kept to a minimum. They should be arranged so that other people are around, for example in a public place, or in an office with the door open, and another member of the team should know that the meeting is taking place. If a worker invites a child into their home, this should be with the knowledge of the age group co-ordinator, and have written parent/carer approval. In some circumstances it may be unwise to invite a child on their own into a home. Staff and volunteers cannot depend on their reputation to protect them if an allegation was to be made. It is always possible that someone else may misinterpret their actions, however well intended.
* All children/ young people should be treated with warmth, respect and dignity. Staff and Workers should be aware how language style, voice tone, body language and dress may be perceived by individual children/young people.
* Worker/Child ratio. We will aim to observe the recommended ratios, which are;
  + 1. 0-2 years 1:3
    2. 2-3 years 1:4
    3. 3-8 years 1:8
* In circumstances where it is necessary to depart from agreed procedures, say in an emergency or for some valid reason (perhaps to protect a child), and permission should be sought in advance from a leader or reported immediately afterwards where this is not possible.

## **Guidelines for Touching**

* Everything should be kept public. A hug in the context of a group is very different from a hug behind closed doors.
* Touch should be related to the young person’s, rather than the worker’s, needs.
* Touch should be age appropriate and generally initiated by the young person rather than the worker.
* Physical activity that is, or may be construed to be, sexually stimulating to the adult or the child should be avoided.
* Children have the right to decide how much physical contact they have with others except in the circumstances when they need emergency medical attention.
* Under no circumstances should physical (or emotional) punishment be used.
* Workers should monitor one another in the area of physical contact. They should be free to help each other by pointing out anything that could be misconstrued. Concerns about abuse should always be reported.

## **Nappy Changing and Taking Children to the Toilet**

### **Nappy Changing**

* Team members will not change a child’s nappy unless specifically given permission by the parent/carer signing the permission sheet on registration.
* Nappy changing should take place within the room that the session is being held and must be carried out by a team member who has been police checked, and preferably in the presence of another adult.
* If written permission has not been given to change a baby/toddler’s nappy then the parent/carer should be fetched if a nappy requires changing.

### **Potty Training and Taking Children to the Toilet**

* Explorers – children are taken to the toilet by their parent/carer. If no parent is present, a team member will stand outside the toilet and not enter.
* A child and adult must never be alone together in the toilet area (unless the adult is that child’s parent/carer).

## **Additional Activities**

Where we organize additional activities for children/young people we endeavour to arrange adequate supervision of those attending. The following guidelines should be adhered to:

* The appropriate age group coordinator should be contacted and a risk assessment of the activity should be undertaken.
* A parent/carer consent form, specifically relating to this activity, must be completed before the child/young person undertakes the activity.
* Lifts home after an event need to be organised to ensure that everyone is safe;
* Transportation should be with parent/carer consent and the knowledge of another member of Staff or the age group coordinator. In some cases it may be unwise to carry a particular child on their own. The driver should wait to see that all child/young people safely enter their destination before leaving. When transporting children or young people, all relevant road traffic legislation should be strictly adhered to.
* When planning residential activities, single sex sleeping arrangements must be made. There is to be no sharing of beds or sleeping bags.

**Section 4**

**Pastoral Care**

**Supporting those affected by abuse**

The Leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the place of worship / organisation.

**Working with offenders**

When someone attending the place of worship / organisation is known to have abused children, or is known to be a risk to vulnerable adults Andrew Myatt or another senior Leader will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

**Working in Partnership**

The diversity of organisations and settings means there can be great variation in practice when it comes to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. This can be because of cultural tradition, belief and religious practice or understanding, for example, of what constitutes abuse.

We therefore have clear guidelines in regards to our expectations of those with whom we work in partnership, whether in the UK or not. We will discuss with all partners our safeguarding expectations and have a partnership agreement for safeguarding. It is also our expectation that any organisation using our premises, as part of the letting agreement will have their own policy that meets Thirtyone:eight’s safeguarding standards.

Good communication is essential in promoting safeguarding, both to those we wish to protect, to everyone involved in working with children and vulnerable adults and to all those with whom we work in partnership. This safeguarding policy is just one means of promoting safeguarding.

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**Signed by:**

**Date:** 10.5.25

**Appendix 1**

**Leadership Safeguarding Statement**

The Leadership of Oxford Vineyard recognises the importance of its ministry /work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the leadership/organisation on: 15.3.15

This place of worship/organisation is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

* We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
* We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
* All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse. We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
* We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
* We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
* We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.

**We are committed to:**

* Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good practice recommendations.
* Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
* Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
* Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
* Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
* Following any denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
* Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
* Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.
* Supporting parents and families
* Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people
* Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
* Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.
* Adopting and following the ‘Safe and Secure’ safeguarding standards developed by Thirtyone:eight.

**We recognise:**

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

**We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.**

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Safeguarding Coordinator: Aileen Curtis

DBS Recruiter: Karen Hann

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from the Church office.

A copy of our safeguarding policy has been lodged with Thirtyone:eight.

Signed by leadership/organisation:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Appendix F “Definitions of Abuse”

Statutory Definitions of Abuse (Children)

Abuse and neglect are forms 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 a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Child protection legislation throughout the UK is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each nation within the UK has incorporated the convention within its legislation and guidance.

ENGLAND

The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)’.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse 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

Emotional abuse is 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 children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the 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 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

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual

activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include 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.

Neglect

Neglect is 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 and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Appendix G

Signs and Symtoms of Abuse

Children who have been sexually abused may show a variety of signs.

They may try to tell you about abuse through hints or clues. They may also describe behaviour by an adult that suggests they are being ['groomed'](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/for-parents/keeping-your-child-safe/grooming/child-grooming_wda101191.html) for future abuse. Other signs include:

**Suddenly starting to behave differently**

* aggressive behaviour
* sleep problems
* bed-wetting or soiling
* risk-taking behaviour during adolescence
* negative thoughts
* not looking after themselves
* problems with school, or missing school.

**Avoiding particular adults**

* Avoids being alone with a particular family member
* Fears an adult or is reluctant to socialise with them.

**Sexually inappropriate behaviour**

* Becoming sexually active at a young age
* Promiscuity
* Use of sexual language or information [that you would not expect them to know](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/for-parents/talking-about-sex/sexual-behaviour-of-children/child-sexual-behaviour_wda96782.html)

**Physical symptoms**

* Anal or vaginal soreness
* An unusual discharge
* Pregnancy

How long these effects last depends on the individual child, the nature of the abuse and the help they receive.