



Safeguarding Policy

Section 1

Details of the place of worship/organisation

Name of Place of Worship/Organisation: High Street Chapel

Address: High Street, Hopton, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2QX

Tel No: 01953 681692

General Email Address: office.hschopton@gmail.com

Senior Leader Name: Myles Coulter

Senior Leader Contact Telephone: 07912 642117

Senior Leader Contact Email: mylesc.hschopton@gmail.com

Safeguarding Coordinator Name: Tanya Dawson

Safeguarding Coordinator Contact Telephone: 01953681692

Safeguarding Coordinator Contact Email: safeguarding.hschopton@gmail.com

Charity Number: 1127666

Insurance Company: Public Liability Insurance Ansvar CHP 2097442

The following is a brief description of our place of worship / organisation and the type of work and activities we undertake with children and adults who have care and support needs:

High Street Chapel, Hopton is an independent Christian church. We believe in the word of the Bible and seek to share the good news about Jesus with people of all ages. We meet together as adults, young people and children every Sunday morning and evening. We also run a separate Sunday School called 'Explorers' for children on Sunday mornings.

High Street Chapel seeks to be part of the community by running several activities for children and young people during School term time. We also organise a summer holiday club at the church and occasionally a camp at Sizewell Hall in July.

Our commitment

As a Leadership we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect.

We 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 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 any 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 Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation.
- Support the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults with care and support needs.
- The Leadership agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

Section 2

Prevention

Understanding abuse and neglect

Defining child abuse or abuse against an 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 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 states:

1. 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:

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

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

Safer 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 (DBS) has been completed, where necessary. 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.

Volunteers

All volunteers working with children and young people will have a DBS check when starting their role. This check is valid for three years only, unless the volunteer subscribes to the update service. (Please note: DBS checks are only transferrable from another organisation within the same 'workforce' and a new DBS will need to be undertaken if this not within the same 'workforce'.)

Safeguarding Training

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 and volunteers will receive induction training and undertake recognised safeguarding training on a regular basis. This should be no longer than every two years.

The Leadership will also ensure that children and adults with care and support needs 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.

Management of Workers – Code 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 adults with care and support needs.

Section 3

Practice Guidelines

As an organisation/place of worship working with children, young people and adults with care and support needs we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false or unfounded accusation.

As well as a general code of conduct for workers, we have specific good practice guidelines for every activity we are involved in. Ask the relevant leader for the appropriate risk assessments.

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 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.

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

Section 4

Responding to Allegations of Abuse

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

- Documenting a concern

The worker or volunteer should make a report of the concern in the following way:

Use a 'record of concern' form, filling out part 1 and send it without delay to the Safeguarding Coordinator, as below. Be factual in your reporting. See **page 13** at the end of this policy, which can also be found on the HSC website under Safeguarding. For a paper copy, contact either persons below.

- The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to:

Name: Tanya Dawson

Tel: 01953681692

Email: safeguarding.hschopton@gmail.com

The above 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 Coordinator or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Coordinator, then the report should be made to:

Name: Ann Cronk

Tel: 01953681692

Email: safeguarding.hschopton@gmail.com

If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Coordinator and the Deputy, then the report should be made in the first instance to:

thirtyone:eight PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ

Tel: 0303 003 1111

Alternatively contact Social Services or the police.

- The Safeguarding Coordinator should contact the appropriate agency or they may first ring the thirtyone:eight helpline for advice. They should then contact social services in the area the child or adult lives.

a) Name of local authority: Suffolk County Council

Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership

Tel: Customer First (emergency number) **0808 800 4005**

Website Address: <https://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/>

Further advice for professionals

Professional Consultation Line **03456 061 499** to speak with a MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) social worker.

Adult Social Services: Suffolk County Council

Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership

Tel: Customer First (emergency number) **0808 800 4005**

Website Address: <https://suffolkas.org/>

Suffolk Police Protection Team Tel: 0808 800 4005 (as above)

Further advice for professionals:

Professional Consultation Line on **03456 061 499** to speak with a MASH social worker, or use the new webchat facility.

b) Name of local authority: Norfolk County Council

Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership

Children's Advice and Duty Service **0344 800 8020**

Website Address: <https://www.norfolkscb.org/>

Adult Social Services: Norfolk County Council

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board

Tel: **0344 800 8020**

Website Address: <https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/contact-us/>

Norfolk Police and/or Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Tel: 0344 800 8020
(as above)

- The Safeguarding Coordinator may need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern
 - Chair or trustee responsible for safeguarding who may need to liaise with the insurance company or the charity commission to report a serious incident.
 - Designated officer or LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) if the allegation concerns a worker or volunteer working with someone under 18.
Email LADO@suffolk.gov.uk or LADO central telephone number **0300 123 2044**.
Email LADO@norfolk.gov.uk or LADO central telephone number **01603 223473**.
- 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 Coordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from thirtyone:eight.
- The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Coordinator/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 Coordinator/Deputy has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Coordinator(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 Coordinator/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 Coordinator/Deputy will:

- 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 Coordinator/Deputy will:

- 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.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern that an adult is in need of protection:

Suspicions or allegations of abuse or harm including; physical, sexual, organisational, financial, discriminatory, neglect, self-neglect, forced marriage, modern slavery, domestic abuse.

If there is concern about any of the above, the Safeguarding Coordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact the Adult Social Care Team who have responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively, thirtyone:eight can be contacted for advice.
- If the adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.

If there is a concern regarding spiritual abuse, Safeguarding Coordinator will:

- Identify support services for the victim ie counselling or other pastoral support
- Contact thirtyone:eight and in discussion with them will consider appropriate action with regards to the scale of the concern.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with children/young people

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Safeguarding Coordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will:

- Liaise with Children's Social Services in regards to the suspension of the worker
- Make a referral to a designated officer formerly called a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) whose function is to handle all allegations against adults who work with children and young people whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- Make a referral to Disclosure and Barring Service for consideration of the person being placed on the barred list for working with children or adults with additional care and support needs. This decision should be informed by the LADO if they are involved.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with adults with care and support needs

The safeguarding Coordinator will:

- Liaise with Adult Social Services in regards the suspension of the worker
- Make a referral to the DBS following the advice of Adult Social Services.

The Care Act places the duty upon Adult Services to investigate situations of harm to adults with care and support needs. This may result in a range of options including action against the person or organisation causing the harm, increasing the support for the carers or no further action if the 'victim' chooses for no further action and they have the capacity to communicate their decision. However, this is a decision for Adult Services to decide not the church.

Section 5

Pastoral Care

Safe Practice for Workers

Visiting, and supporting, the vulnerable and needy in difficult situations are clearly an important part of church life. Where possible, aim to meet in an open environment or go in pairs. If this is not possible (for example home visits, or taking someone for a medical appointment), make sure that you have followed the lone workers' policy and relevant risk assessments. Log the time and date of your visit using a diary or HSC's cloud document storage system. Afterwards, record any matter that is of concern or of significant importance.

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 and those who may pose a risk

When someone attending the place of worship/organisation is known to have abused children, is under investigation, or is known to be a risk to adults with care and support needs; the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and adults with care and support needs, set boundaries for that person, which they will be expected to keep. These boundaries will be based on an appropriate risk assessment and through consultation with appropriate parties.

Adoption of the policy

This policy was agreed by the Leadership and will be reviewed annually.

Signed by: Myles Coulter

Position: Elder

Signed by: Neil Cleveland

Position: Elder

Date: 30 April 2021

Updated: 11 April 2024

Part 1: Record of concern about a child/adult's safety and welfare

(For use by any staff/volunteers. This form can be filled in electronically. If the form is handwritten, care should be taken to ensure that the form is legible.)^{1, 2, 3}

Child/adult's name (subject of concern):	Date of birth/age: Child/adult:	Address:
Date & time of incident:	Date & time (of writing):	
Your name (print): Role/job title:		
Signature:		
Other members of the household ⁴ :		
Record the following <u>factually</u> . Nature of concern, e.g. disclosure, change in behaviour, demeanour, appearance, injury, witnesses etc. <i>(please include as much detail in this section as possible. Remember – the quality of your information will inform the level of intervention initiated. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)</i>		
How did the concern come to light?		
What is the child/adult saying about what has happened ⁴ ?		
Any other relevant information. Previous concerns etc.		
Date and time of discussion with Safeguarding Coordinator ⁵ : _____		

Check to make sure your report is clear to someone else reading it.

Please pass this form to your Safeguarding Coordinator without delay

Guidance notes for Form 1 (Volunteers/staff only):

Following are some helpful pointers in completing the above form:

1. As a registered body the church/charitable organisation is required to ensure that its duty of care towards its beneficiaries is carried out in line with the principles enshrined within the Working together to safeguard children and young people, 2018 and the Care Act, 2014. (Refer to your own church's/organisation's safeguarding policy at this point too).
2. Essential principles of recording the information received/disclosed/observed:
 - a. Remember: do not investigate or ask any leading questions
 - b. make notes within the first one hour of receiving the disclosure or observing the incident
 - c. be clear and factual in your recording of the incident or disclosure
 - d. avoid giving your opinion or feelings on the matter
 - e. aim to record using the 4 W's and 1 H: When, where, what, why and how
 - f. do not share this information with anyone else except your safeguarding Coordinator in the first instance and they will advise on who else will need to be informed, how and when.
 - g. make use of the additional information section to add any other relevant information regarding the child/adult/ family that you may be aware of. This can include any historic concerns or observations.
3. ***What constitutes a safeguarding concern?*** – any incident that has caused or likely to cause significant harm to a child can be classed as a safeguarding concern. Abuse is classified under four different categories (with regards to children) as already stated within the safeguarding policy (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect). With regards to adults there are 6 further categorisations. Whilst it may be helpful to record a specific category in the above form, if possible, this may not always be the case. Therefore, it is important to seek advice from your safeguarding Coordinator or thirtyone:eight at this stage.
4. ***Why do you need information regarding 'other household members'?*** – It has been demonstrated as important to include information about significant adults in the household especially when concerns relate to children as this has been a recurrent risk factor in several serious case reviews.
5. ***Why is the view of the child/adult significant?*** It is important to give whatever detail is available of the child or adult's explanation (or verbatim) of the matter to help ascertain if it is plausible and to help offer a context to the concern identified.
6. ***Passing information to the Safeguarding Coordinator*** – Your safeguarding Coordinator holds ultimate responsibility in responding to any safeguarding concerns within the church/organisation and therefore it is important that they have oversight of the actions being taken and make relevant and appropriate contact with statutory agencies if required. They will remain the most appropriate link between the organisation and external agencies.

Part 2: Record of concern about a child/adult's safety and welfare

(For use by Safeguarding Coordinator. This form can be filled in electronically. If the form is handwritten, care should be taken to ensure that the form is legible.)

Information received by SC:	Date:	Time completed:	From whom:		
Any advice sought , if applicable	Date:	Time completed:	Source of advice: Name/organisation:		
	Advice received: Advice received about informing parents or in the case of adults, seeking consent/capacity ¹ :				
Initial Assessment of concern following advice ²					
Action taken with reasons recorded (e.g. Referral completed, monitoring advice given to appropriate staff, CAF etc)	Date:	Time completed:	By whom:		
	Referral:		To whom:		
	Signposting to other community resources:				
	Pastoral Care and other support from church:				
	Ongoing monitoring:				
Parent/carer informed?	Y	Who spoken to:	Date:	Time:	By whom:
	N	Detail reason:			

Any other relevant information			
Name of Safeguarding Coordinator:		Signature:	

OVERVIEW OF ACTIONS³:

S.No.	Date	Outcome (if known)	Service currently involved	Ongoing support offered by church (this can include monitoring)- include dates
1.				

Guidance notes for Form 2:

Following are some helpful pointers in completing the above form(s)

1. **Importance of consent from parents/carer or adults (in the light of mental capacity)** – With regards to children, consent of the parents is considered important before a referral is made to external agencies, unless of course doing so will place the child(ren) at greater risk of harm. With regards to adults, it is important to be aware that their consent is crucial before reporting concerns onto statutory agencies. The individual’s mental capacity will also be a significant factor to consider at this stage. You can always seek the advice of local authority social services.
2. **Initial assessment-** Based on the advice you may have received from relevant individuals/agencies (i.e. this could be school/thirtyone:eight/CEOP etc) what are the concerns categorised as?
3. **Overview of actions** - Includes a summary of the actions taken so far and who holds responsibility for it. You can use this section to add on information gathered when monitoring the situation or offering pastoral care over a defined period of time.