

# **The Christadelphian Sunday School Union**

***Registered Charity Number: 1097921***

## **SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING PEOPLE COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THE CHARITY**

***A policy document and guidance for trustees and other  
people coming into contact with the charity***

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

# **Safeguarding and Protecting People Coming into Contact with the Charity**

## **Principles and practice**

Trustees of the Christadelphian Sunday School Union recognise that as an expression of our love of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ we should show love to all (Matthew 22:37-39, Galatians 6:10) and treat others as we would wish to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

We are aware that in seeking to put these principles into practice we should take particular care when dealing with children and vulnerable adults as well as other adults that come into contact with the charity.

The Christadelphian Sunday School Union is accordingly committed to safeguarding and protecting all who have contact with it and has produced this policy document and guidance to enlist the support of all interested parties in ensuring this takes place.

## **What is safeguarding?**

Safeguarding means making arrangements or taking precautions intended to protect people from “Abuse, including significant harm or exploitation” (see further description below) and “Other risks” (see further description below).

## **Who are Vulnerable adults?**

A “Vulnerable adult” is anyone aged 18 or over who is in a vulnerable situation or relationship. This includes people who are frail, have a learning disability, a physical disability, problems with eyesight or hearing or mental health issues and who cannot care for themselves or take steps to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation. They may have difficulty making their wishes or feelings known. They may need or already receive community care services such as a care package or support worker or they may be heavily dependent on one or more family members or friends.

## **Who are Other adults?**

“Other adults” means any persons who are neither Children nor Vulnerable adults.

## **What are Other risks?**

“Other risks” include health and safety (including fire safety, first aid and digital safety policies), discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 and a wide range of other matters listed in “Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees” issued by the Charity Commission on 25 October 2018.

## **What is Abuse, including significant harm or exploitation?**

Abuse may be physical, emotional or sexual or it may involve not looking after someone properly, taking money or property without informed consent, misusing it or committing fraud. It may include poor care practices, exploitation, bullying, harassment or humiliation, or not allowing contact with family or friends. It often involves criminal acts. Abuse can be a single act or it may continue over time and may take many different forms. It can be unintentional or deliberate but in all cases it will result in harm to the victim that affects their wellbeing or security. Individuals may suffer more than one kind of abuse.

## **Who might abuse a Vulnerable adult or Other adult?**

An abuser may be:

- A partner, family member, friend or neighbour.
- A carer, volunteer, staff member or another service user.
- A stranger.

## **Where could abuse happen?**

Abuse could happen anywhere and at any time including:

- In the victim's own home or someone else's.
- In a day centre, care home or hospital.
- At work or in a college or school.
- In a public place, including any ecclesial or other meeting room.

## **What increases the risk of abuse?**

Anyone can be at risk of abuse but the majority of people are not at risk all of the time.

The risk of abuse increases when:

- Someone is isolated.
- They depend on others for food or personal care.
- They are suffering from an illness or recovering.
- They are not mentally capable of making decisions for themselves.
- They have suffered previous abuse.

## **How can I help a Vulnerable adult or Other adult at possible risk but reduce the risk of being accused of abuse?**

Always be sensitive to their needs and treat them courteously.

Unless they are your close friend or family member or they rely on you for personal or professional care, try to have someone else with you when spending time with them, especially for long periods.

If they need help with financial matters or dealing with property try to get their agreement to involve someone else such as a member of their family or a member of staff at their bank, building society or solicitor's office.

**What should I do if I think a Child, Vulnerable adult or Other adult is suffering Abuse or needs protection from Other risks?**

In an **emergency** or if someone is in **immediate danger** call **999**.

To report a crime (non-emergency) call 101.

Otherwise, speak to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead**: Christine Walker or Mark Duckworth (DSL at date of issue of this leaflet).

**If the DSL is not available** and you need to get advice or report adult abuse quickly, check the permanent address of the vulnerable adult or other adult and contact the safeguarding organisation that covers that address:

Local Authority contact details for Vulnerable adults living in any other Local Authority area can be found via the relevant website.