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The Valley Church

"SAFEGUARDING IN ACTION"

POLICY FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN,
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AT RISK

2025 EDITION

As at 2025, the Valley Church is not currently undertaking any work with children and young people nor involved in any regulated activities with adults at risk. This policy still reflects the principles of safeguarding that we adhere to. The trustees acknowledge the need for a full revision should any new activities start with children or young people or regulated activities with adults at risk.

This Policy is subject to an Annual Review.

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1.0 OUR SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This policy, complete with its relevant sections of procedures and guidance, is intended to ensure the safeguarding of the children, young people and adults at risk with whom we work. Safeguarding is a relatively new term which is broader than 'child protection' as it also includes prevention.

Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is vital for charities, as charity trustees have a duty of care towards those with whom their organisation has contact. Having safeguards in place within an organisation not only protects and promotes client welfare but also it enhances the confidence of trustees, staff, parents/carers and the general public.

Safeguarding policies and procedures are beneficial to a charity in many ways – protecting its reputation, helping to effectively meet its objectives and protecting its finances.

1.1 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

This document is a living, breathing resource at the heart of our commitment to excellence in delivering services to our community. It should be thoroughly understood and implemented by all staff and church leaders. Partners and stakeholders in the Valley Church projects should have a good working knowledge of its principles and use it as an important reference point in our collaborative efforts to keep children, young people and adults at risk safe from harm.

1.2 CHALLENGES WE FACE

Transformative face to face work with children, young people and adults at risk is a highly rewarding vocation, which is vital for both the present and future health of our communities. However, the nature of the work involves many risks and challenges. The urgency of the need for such work must not lead to a short-cutting of the professional standards such work demands. The government frequently publishes legislation to which we must adhere (see bibliography for examples) and Hampshire County Council (the local authority within which we work) also has its own priorities and policies. Operating within this plurality of legislation and policy is one of the many complexities of working with children, young people and adults at risk.

The Valley Church has the aim of working in a spirit of partnership with children, young people, adults at risk, their parents, families, carers and other agencies to promote their welfare.
It is essential considering the nature of our work, that we pursue healthy working relationships with statutory bodies such as schools, police, local authority social services and youth services. Staff must bear in mind that they do not have to be the solution to every problem. There may be

times when children, young people and adults at risk should be signposted to specialists in certain fields. This document includes guidance on when and why such decisions may be needed.

1.3 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Our endeavours to ensure effective safeguarding for the children, young people and adults at risk within our work are based on the following principles:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made and robustly screening staff who undertake "regulated activities".
- providing effective management for staff through supervision, support and training
- carefully following procedures, including internal reporting systems
- sharing information about good practice with parents/families, carers and staff.
- appropriately sharing information about concerns with other agencies
- operating within a risk management framework

1.4 POLICY STATEMENTS

A Young Person is defined by the Children Act 2004 as being under the age of 18.

The Valley Church accepts, in line with this Act, that the welfare of the young person is paramount.

An Adult At Risk is defined as a person aged 18 or over who has:

- a learning or physical disability
- a long term physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise including an addiction to alcohol or drugs
- a reduction in physical or mental capacity
- a dependency upon others, or a requirement for assistance in the performance of physical functions
- severe impairment in the ability to communicate with others
- an impairment in their ability to protect themself from assault, abuse, neglect, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation, or who is already experiencing any of these.

The Valley Church recognises the unique status of children, young people and adults at risk and will respect them as individuals. All staff will uphold the safety and welfare of children, young people and adults at risk in their care.

All the Valley Church outreach activities will be formally risk-assessed using best practice principles. Management process and staff activity will be geared to the priorities identified through the risk-assessment mechanism.

The Valley Church will ensure that relationships with children, young people and adults at risk are carried out with integrity and without exploitation. The highest professional standards will be continually encouraged and maintained.

Any allegation of abuse disclosed will be taken seriously and the Valley Church will collaborate fully with the statutory and voluntary agencies concerned with abuse of the vulnerable. The Valley Church has systems of accountability and supervision and reserves the right to conduct investigations into the conduct of any of its staff.

The Valley Church requires all staff involved in work with children or young people and those involved in regulated activities with adults at risk, at time of recruitment, and at specified intervals during their service, to be subject to thorough background checks, including detailed character references and screening by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The Valley Church undertakes to follow the principles found within the Abuse of Trust guidance published by the Home Office; 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. In order to eliminate any ambiguity over this point the practical implications of this are that any member of staff found to be having a sexual relationship with a young person under the age of eighteen or adult at risk will be immediately dismissed. If the young person is under sixteen, the police will be informed.

The Valley Church undertakes that organisations who hire facilities within The Bridge Building, where work with children or young people or regulated activities with adults at risk takes place on the premises, will supply a copy of their organisation's safeguarding policy upon initial booking. The responsibility of safeguarding participants in these activities rests with the hirer; however the safety of children, young people and adults at risk is everyone's responsibility and any safeguarding concerns should be taken to the Safeguarding Officer immediately.

1.5 TRAINING

The content of this policy and its associated procedures forms the basis of a training package for all Valley Church staff. The Valley Church is committed to using appropriate training programmes for all staff where necessary, and recommends attendance at a suitable safeguarding course for project workers

1.6 DBS DISCLOSURES

The Valley Church will use the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to undertake background checks for staff as required. All staff must co-operate in timely fashion with all DBS related matters.
All staff working with children and young people will be DBS checked.
Upon direct guidance from officers of the DBS, the Valley Church will only insist upon DBS checks for staff involved in 'Regulated Activity' with adults at risk which will be updated every 3 years. These checks will be at **enhanced** level.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 defines **Regulated Activity for adults at risk as:**

- Providing Health Care
- Providing Personal Care
- Providing Social Work
- Assistance with general household matters
- Assistance in the conduct of a person's own affairs

- Conveying

For more extensive definitions of the above, and in consequence a decision about whether a DBS check is required, the full document should be consulted.

DBS related matters are highly confidential and the Valley Church takes the utmost care in ensuring the expectations of the DBS are met with regard to all matters of processing, applications and storage of results, in line with the Valley Church's data protection policy.

2.0 RECOGNISING ABUSE

Defining child abuse or abuse against an adult at risk 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 at risk.

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. 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.

2.1 ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Statutory Definitions of Abuse (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

The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)'.

What is abuse and neglect?

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, for example via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

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 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 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 (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
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
Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, which is 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);
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

2.2 ABUSE OF ADULTS

Statutory Definitions of Abuse (Adults At Risk)

The following definition of abuse is laid down in 'No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse'

(Department of Health 2000):

'Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. In giving substance to that statement, however, consideration needs to be given to a number of factors.

'Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.'

Physical Abuse
This is the infliction of pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately or through lack of care.

Sexual Abuse
This is the involvement in sexual activities to which the person has not consented or does not truly comprehend and so cannot give informed consent, or where the other party is in a position of trust, power or authority and uses this to override or overcome lack of consent.

Psychological or Emotional Abuse
These are acts or behaviour, which cause mental distress or anguish or negate the wishes of the adult at risk. It is also behaviour that has a harmful effect on that person's emotional health and development or any other form of mental cruelty.

Financial or Material Abuse
This is the inappropriate use, misappropriation, embezzlement or theft of money, property or possessions

Neglect or Act of Omission
This is the repeated deprivation of assistance that the adult at risk needs for important activities of daily living, including the failure to intervene in behaviour which is dangerous to them or to others. A vulnerable person may be suffering from neglect when their general well-being or development is impaired

Discriminatory Abuse
This is the inappropriate treatment of a adult at risk because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality, disability etc. Discriminatory abuse exists when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals. Discriminatory abuse links to all other forms of abuse.

Institutional Abuse
This is the mistreatment or abuse of an adult at risk by a regime or individuals within an institution (e.g. hospital or care home) or in the community, including by a church group. It can be through repeated acts of poor or inadequate care and neglect or poor professional practice.

2.3 ADDITIONAL TYPES OF ABUSE

Appendix 1 of this policy gives information on further definitions of abuse including:-

- Significant Harm
- Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced (formerly known as Munchausen's Syndrome By Proxy)
- Spiritual abuse
- Domestic abuse

- Complex (organised or multiple) abuse
- Child prostitution
- Grooming
- Genital mutilation
- Breast ironing
- Discrimination
- Online abuse
- Mate crime
- Cuckooing
- Modern slavery
- Human Trafficking
- Radicalisation
- Peer-on-peer abuse
- Child on child abuse
- Historic abuse

3.0 ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES FACING STAFF

3.1 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the following subjects can be found in **Appendix 2** of this policy

- Drug / alcohol abusing parents
- Domestic abuse
- Self-harm
- Teenage pregnancy

3.2 INFATUATION

All Valley Church staff need to be aware that it is not uncommon for young people to develop an attraction towards a member of staff and/or develop a heterosexual, homosexual or non-sexual infatuation. Signs of such an attraction or infatuation may be expressed in a number of ways, verbal and non-verbal. All situations should be responded to sensitively to maintain the dignity of all concerned. Staff should also be aware that such circumstances always carry a high risk of words or actions being misinterpreted and for allegations to be made.

A member of staff who becomes aware that a young or vulnerable person may be infatuated with them or a colleague should discuss this at the earliest opportunity with their supervisor so that appropriate action can be taken. In this way, steps can be taken to avoid hurt, distress and risk for all concerned.

3.3 CONSENT FORMS

Many of the services and activities of the Valley Church will involve regular formal and informal contact with children and young people. In many cases it will be appropriate for parents to have the opportunity to give prior consent for their child's involvement.

4.0 DISCLOSURES OF ABUSE

4.1 LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO A DISCLOSURE

When a child, young person or adult at risk chooses to tell a responsible adult, e.g. their youth worker, about abuse they have suffered or are suffering, or that they are concerned someone else is suffering, we call this 'a disclosure'. This should not be confused with the other use of the word Disclosure in Child Protection circles, which is an alternative way of referring to a DBS check i.e. 'getting a Disclosure'.

A disclosure in this sense is an allegation of inflicted harm, or mistreatment directed towards another person or persons. All allegations must be taken seriously. Allegations may come from the individual or another concerned party and may relate to abuse from a family member or someone outside the family, e.g. a teacher, youth leader, pastor, etc. No group of people is exempt from being abusers.

If a vulnerable person tells a member of staff about abuse, it is extremely important that the guidelines in the Safeguarding Procedures are followed carefully.

It is recommended that all staff read the section on 'Effective Listening' in the Safeguarding Procedures.

4.2 HANDLING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF

The Valley Church has procedures for dealing with allegations against staff that aim to strike a balance between the need to protect children, young people and adults at risk from abuse, and the need to protect staff from false or unfounded accusations.

Children, young people and adults at risk can be helped to understand what is and is not acceptable behaviour towards them and taught about staying safe from harm, and how to speak up if they have worries or concerns.

Given the regular contact with children, young people and adults at risk in a variety of situations, staff are vulnerable to accusations of abuse. Their friendships with children and adults at risk may lead to allegations against them being made by the children, young people and adults at risk, their parents/carers or others.

The allegations may be false, malicious or misplaced and may be deliberate or innocent of such intent. Regardless of the motives underlying any allegations, they may also be well-founded.

As an organisation, the Valley Church wishes to manage situations where there are allegations of abuse wisely. If a child, young person or adult at risk makes an allegation against a member of staff, **it is extremely important that the guidelines in the Safeguarding Procedures are followed carefully**. He/she must be listened to; whatever form the attempts to communicate their worries take.

5.0 ACTING UPON CONCERNS OF ABUSE

5.1 REPORTING

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or

suspicion of abuse. **The full procedure for reporting concerns of abuse is detailed in the Safeguarding Procedures; this advice should be carefully followed.**
Allegations or suspicions of abuse should be reported as soon as possible the Safeguarding Officer or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Safeguarding Officer. If the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Officer, then the report should be made to the Deputy Safeguarding Officer.
If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Officer and the Deputy, then the report should be made in the first instance to one or more of the Trustees of the Valley Church and then to Thirtyone:eight.
Alternatively Social Services or the Police can be contacted, see appendix 3.

5.2
The Safeguarding Officer (and Deputy Safeguarding Officer) will at all times follow the agreed procedures for dealing with concerns and allegations of abuse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Valley Church Safeguarding Policy has been adapted using information from:
a) The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service's publication “Safe and Secure”
b) The Baptist Union's "Model Safeguarding Policy and Procedures" document
Use of material from both publications is acknowledged.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND FURTHER READING:

“Safe and Secure” - Safeguarding Manual - 2010 - Thirtyone:eight, formerly The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service

"Model Safeguarding Policy and Procedures" - 2023 - Best Practice Guidance for Baptist Union of Great Britain Churches

Safeguarding and Protecting People for Charities and Trustees- 2022 - gov.uk

Child Online Safety: protecting children from online sexual exploitation and abuse - 2021 - gov.uk

Working Together to Safeguard Children - 2023 - gov.uk

Keeping Children Safe in Education – 2024 – gov.uk

Every Child Matters – 2003 – gov.uk

Regulated activity (adults) - The definition of ‘regulated activity’ (adults) as defined by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 from 10th September 2012 -2011 - Department of Health

Appendix 1

FURTHER DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Significant Harm

This relates to the degree of harm that triggers statutory action to protect a child. It is based on the individual child's health or development compared to that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child. e.g. severity of ill treatment, degree and extent of physical harm, duration and frequency of abuse and neglect, premeditation. Department of Health guidance suggests that 'significant' means 'considerable, noteworthy or important.'

Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced (formerly known as Munchausen's Syndrome By Proxy)

This is a form of child abuse in which the parents or carers give false accounts of symptoms in their children and may fake signs of illness in the child to draw attention to themselves. They seek repeated medical investigations and needless treatment for their children. The government guidance on this is found in 'Safeguarding Children in whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced' (2002).

Spiritual Abuse

Linked with emotional abuse, spiritual abuse could be defined as an abuse of power, often done in the name of God or religion, which involves manipulating or coercing someone into thinking, saying or doing things without respecting their right to choose for themselves. Some indicators of spiritual abuse might be a leader who is intimidating and imposes his/her will on other people, perhaps threatening dire consequences or the wrath of God if disobeyed. He or she may say that God has revealed certain things to them and so they know what is right. Those under their leadership are fearful to challenge or disagree, believing they will lose the leader's (or more seriously God's) acceptance and approval.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between persons aged 16 and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality. (Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step-family.)

Domestic abuse is rarely a one-off incident. Usually there is a pattern of abusive, coercive and controlling behaviour where an abuser seeks to exert power over their family member or partner.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse as victims in their own right.

Acts such as forced marriage and other so-called 'honour crimes', which can include abduction and homicide, come under the definition of domestic abuse. An honour marriage / forced marriage is when one or both of the spouses do not, or cannot, consent to the marriage. There may be physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure exerted in order to make the marriage go ahead. The motivation may include the desire to control unwanted behaviour or sexuality.

Complex (organised or multiple) abuse

This abuse may be defined as abuse involving one or more abusers and a number of children. The abusers concerned may be acting in concert or in isolation to abuse children or may be using an institutional framework or position of authority to recruit children for abuse.

Complex abuse occurs both as part of a network of abuse across a family or community, and within institutions such as residential homes or schools. Such abuse is profoundly traumatic for

the children who become involved. Its investigation is time-consuming and demanding work, requiring specialist skills from both police and social work staff. Some investigations become extremely complex because of the number of places and people involved, and the timescale over which abuse is alleged to have occurred. The complexity is heightened where, as in historical cases, the alleged victims are no longer living in the setting where the incidents occurred or where the alleged perpetrators are also no longer linked to the setting or employment role. (Working Together 2010 Sections: 6.10 – 6.11)

Child Prostitution

Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006) Section 6.2 states “Children involved in prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation should be treated primarily as the victims of abuse, and their needs require careful assessment.” (See also 'Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution (2000).)

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced a number of new offences to deal with those who sexually exploit children and young people. The offences protect children up to the age of 18 and can attract tough penalties. They include:

- paying for the sexual services of a child;
- causing or inciting child prostitution;
- arranging or facilitating child prostitution; and
- controlling a child prostitute.

Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child, young person or adult at risk to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation. Children, young people and adults at risk can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children, young people and adults at risk don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The World Health Organization defined FGM as all procedures involving partial or total removal or stitching up of the female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons.

The practice is medically unnecessary, extremely painful and has serious health consequences (including death) following the procedure or subsequently in childbirth. The procedure is typically performed on girls aged between four and thirteen, but in some cases FGM is performed on new born infants or on young women before marriage or pregnancy.

FGM is a criminal offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003). It is also illegal for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out FGM abroad, or to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad, even in countries where the practice is legal.

FGM is much more common than most people realise, both worldwide and in the UK. It is increasingly found in Western Europe and other developed countries, often amongst immigrant and refugee communities.

Breast Ironing

Breast ironing is a form of physical abuse that has been condemned by the United Nations and identified as Gender-based Violence. It is practiced in some African countries and there are concerns that breast ironing is also to be found amongst African communities in the UK, with as many as a 1,000 girls at risk. Girls aged between 9 and 15 have hot pestles, stones or other implements rubbed on their developing breast to stop them growing further. In the vast majority

of cases breast ironing is carried out by mothers or grandmothers and the men in the family are unaware.

The practice of breast ironing is seen as a protection to girls by making them seem 'child-like' for longer and thus it is perceived to reduce the likelihood of pregnancy and the risk of sexual harassment, rape, forced marriage and kidnapping. Breast ironing does not stop the breasts from growing, but development can be slowed down. The practice can leave women with physical damage and long term health issues.

Discrimination

The inappropriate treatment of a person because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality or disability.

Online abuse

The use of information technology (email, mobile phones, websites, social media, instant messaging, chatrooms, etc) to repeatedly harm or harass other people in a deliberate manner.

Mate crime

Mate crime is when people (particularly those with learning disabilities) are befriended by members of the community, who go on to exploit and take advantage of them.

Cuckooing

Cuckooing is the term used to describe occasions where the homes of adults at risk are taken over and used to distribute drugs or as a base for gang or criminal activities. The tenant may believe that the people who are in their home are their friends.

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is the practice of treating people as property; it includes bonded labour, child labour, sex slavery and trafficking. In the UK we see examples of this through County Lines, Child Sexual Exploitation and forced labour.

Human trafficking

Human trafficking is when people are bought and sold for financial gain and/or abuse. Men, women and children can be trafficked, both within their own countries and over international borders. The traffickers will trick, coerce, lure or force these vulnerable individuals into sexual exploitation, forced labour, street crime, domestic servitude or even the sale of organs and human sacrifice.

Radicalisation

The radicalisation of individuals is the process by which people come to support any form of extremism (religious or political) and, in some cases, join terrorist groups. Some individuals are more vulnerable to the risk of being groomed into terrorism than others.

Peer-on-peer abuse

Peer-on-peer abuse is where sexual abuse takes place between children of a similar age or stage of development.

Child on child abuse

Child on Child abuse is when a child abuses another child of any age or stage of development.

Historic abuse

Historic abuse is the term used to describe disclosures of abuse that were perpetrated in the past. Many people who have experienced abuse don't tell anyone what happened until years later, with around one third of people abused in childhood waiting until adulthood before they

share their experience.

Appendix 2

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES FACING STAFF

Drug or alcohol abusing parents

Drug and alcohol abuse by parents can have a serious effect on their children. 70% of children taken into care have parents who are suspected of substance abuse.
Not all parents who abuse drugs or alcohol mistreat or abuse their children, but sometimes they can be put at considerable risk. There is an increased risk of violence in families where parents abuse substances.
Young people can suffer from lack of boundaries and discipline, and live chaotic lives. This can damage their psychological and emotional development and may result in problems with their relationships later in life. The children who are most vulnerable are those whose parents are violent, aggressive, neglectful or rejecting. These children can remain "invisible" from the services intended to support them unless their behaviour attracts attention at school or elsewhere outside the home, e.g. places where the Valley Church staff are working.

Self harm

Rates of self-harm in the UK have increased over the last ten years. Government research published in 2001 suggests that as many as 215,000 teenagers (1 in 10) throughout the UK may have harmed themselves. More than 24,000 teenagers are admitted to hospital in the UK each year because of harming themselves. Most have taken overdoses or cut themselves (University of Oxford, 2002).
There are also resources and advice available, e.g. harmless.org.uk
Suicide Attempts: the most severe form of Self Harm is to attempt suicide. The most common way a young person will attempt to do this is by taking a drug overdose. If you suspect this has happened, immediately summon an ambulance by phoning "999".

Teenage pregnancy

Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Western Europe. In the year 2000, there were over 87,000 children born to teenage mothers in Britain. Young women can be fearful of their families and other people finding out they are pregnant and may keep the knowledge to themselves. Embarrassment may stop young girls from seeking help. They may want to talk to someone who will not judge them, or think they are silly because they do not have the right information. Sensitivity to the situation is important.
It is not unusual for the first line of advice from secular agencies to be a recommendation of termination.
It is important to remember that some young women may become pregnant as they take risks when using alcohol or drugs. Some may also become pregnant as a result of violence, such as rape or sexual abuse.
Young men facing being a teenage parent are confronted with many issues in which they have little choice or control. They may need support as well as the young mother.

Appendix 3

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Valley Church Safeguarding Officer		safeguarding@thevalleychurch.org.uk
Children's Services Hantsdirect -for all Children's Services Social Care Enquiries		Tel: 0300 555 1384 Email:childrens.services@hants.gov.uk.
Emergency Duty Team - for out of hours referrals		Tel: 0300 555 1373 Please note: in an emergency call 999
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO - for allegations)	Local Authority Designated Officer The Safeguarding Unit Children's Services Department Clarendon House Monarch Way Winchester SO22 5PW	Tel: 01962 876364
Adult Health and Social Care Team (Hampshire)		0300 555 1368 Out of hours 0300 555 1373 Or online via the Hampshire County Council website
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline		0808 800 5000
Child-Line		0800 1111
Silver Line (friendship, conversation and support for people over 55)		0800 4 70 80 90 Or thesilverline.org.uk
Hampshire Police	Hampshire Constabulary Police Headquarters West Hill Romsey Road Winchester Hampshire SO22 5DB	Tel: 101 Or go online to hampshire.police.uk Please note, in an emergency call 999