

Child and Vulnerable Persons Protection Policy

General Introduction

We recognise that as a Christian charity, which has the aim to train young Christians in their own and their church life, we have a great responsibility to the welfare and pastoral care of all the children, young people and adults who attend any Christian Endeavour meeting or have any involvement in CE activities. Christian Endeavour aims to provide a happy and caring environment in which all children, young people and adults are personally valued, can be trained in a knowledge of Jesus Christ, have self respect and self control and so develop as Christ's followers.

All leaders and volunteer helpers are well placed to observe any signs of abuse, any changes in behaviour, failures to develop, failures to thrive and general problems in respect of personal behaviour that might impact on this caring environment. There is a responsibility to report any such concerns immediately to the designated person in your church or Avis MacDonald who is the designated co-ordinator for Christian Endeavour. Her mobile number is 07895464033.

The Policy for the Trustees, Members and Staff

All of the above persons have to be CRB checked or if in Scotland by Disclosure Scotland or by Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS) every two years.

Types of Concern

The main categories of concern for any vulnerable person are briefly summarised below but are covered in greater detail in the various appendices:-

Actions

Any concerns should be reported to your church's co-ordinator. A quick response should be sought in response to any of these concerns in order to prevent exposing the person to further risks.

Agencies that might have to be involved are:-

parents (if applicable and not subject to the concerns);

foster parents(if applicable and also not subject to the concerns);

children of vulnerable adults:

the Social Services Department and the Early Years Department both operated by your Local Authority;

the police and charities such as NSPCC, NCH etc.

Telephone numbers for these agencies should be listed in your area's Telephone Directory.

Leaders should not act in a counselling role unless they are the Church's Co-ordinator and must only listen and not become involved in detailed or deep

questioning of the person. They also need to be aware that they have to take a responsible attitude to any information confided to them by any person whilst recognising that certain information cannot be kept secret. All matters need to be dealt with at the highest level by the society leader(s) and the church and ultimately the relevant outside agencies.

Ensure that your Church/Fellowship/Society has a Policy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. Check that this is regularly being assessed and updated as required. It is recommended that this assessment is undertaken at least every twelve months or sooner if necessary.

Make sure that all your society leaders and volunteer workers have a current CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check if they are resident in England, Northern Ireland or Wales. This even applies to helpers who might only have occasional contact with the society.

Generally your church should be able to arrange for the necessary CRB checks to be made but for a small fee per application the Christian Endeavour Union of Great Britain and Ireland can undertake CRB checks for leaders resident in England Northern Ireland and Wales. In Scotland there are two bodies who undertake these checks. They are Disclosure Scotland and the Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS), which was established by the Scottish Executive to provide free disclosures (police checks) for volunteers in the voluntary sector working with children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk. Unfortunately no such checks are currently undertaken in Southern Ireland.

Know the definitions of abuse.

Be able to recognise and to be able to respond to abuse.

Know the correct procedures to follow if you suspect abuse.

Know how to respond to a child/ young person/vulnerable adult who wishes to talk about potentially unusual events.

Have procedures for appointing employed staff and also volunteers.

Ensure that the correct arrangements for the supervision of children and young people are in place.

Ensure that your Church/Fellowship/Society has current and regularly updated Health and Safety Procedures and has assessed its Fire Safety policies.

Assess and amend where required any relevant support documents.