

# Vulnerable Beneficiaries Policy Statement

Updated October 2019

## Introduction

The Charity Commission in England & Wales has an important regulatory role in ensuring that trustees comply with their legal duties and responsibilities as trustees in managing and administering their charity. Their aim is to protect public confidence in the integrity of charities. In the context of safeguarding issues, they have a limited and very specific regulatory role which is focused on the conduct of the trustees and the steps they take to protect the charity and its beneficiaries now and in the future. Their remit often covers just one area of a much wider investigation involving or being led by other agencies.

Trustees of charities which work with vulnerable groups and children have a duty of care to their charity which will include taking the necessary steps to safeguard and take responsibility for those children and vulnerable adults.

Trustees must put systems in place to make the necessary checks to ensure individuals who are trustees, staff (including contractors) and volunteers are legally able to act in positions involving vulnerable beneficiaries.

Trustees are legally responsible for:

- Ensuring the risk to the charity's current and future beneficiaries and services are being properly managed by the trustees;
- The protection of the charity's assets, including its reputation; and
- Ensuring that they comply with their legal duties and responsibilities in the management and administration of the charity.

## Safeguarding Strategy

We are committed to creating a safer culture within the walls of the North Plymouth Community Church. As a Church we must demonstrate a duty of care to safeguard all children and vulnerable adults from harm. All children and vulnerable adults have a right to protection, and the needs of all people who may be particularly vulnerable (either permanently or temporarily) must be taken into account when considering their involvement in church life and the support that is offered to enable them to live fulfilling Christian lives.

The North Plymouth Community Church abides under the policies of Thirtyone;eight (previously known as the CCPAS (The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service)). As a result, all our children's workers are DBS checked. Thirtyone;eight is an independent Christian safeguarding charity which provides:

- 24 hour confidential helpline
- Safeguarding policies
- Professional training and advice
- Disclosure checks
- Breaking news updates
- Support and resources

Their staff exist to safeguard both children and vulnerable adults throughout the UK. They also work to help those throughout the UK who are, or have been, affected by child abuse and similar issues. For further information on safeguarding policies, procedures and practice guidance for leaders, staff and volunteers, please refer to the Thirtyone:eight website.

North Plymouth Community Church is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults engaged in the breadth of its activities.

The key objectives of our policy are:

- To explain the responsibilities its staff and volunteers have in respect of child and vulnerable adult protection.
- To provide members and volunteers with an overview of child and vulnerable adult protection.
- To provide a clear procedure that will be implemented where child and vulnerable adult protection issues arise.

The reporting of all safeguarding issues are dealt with in the North Plymouth Community Church 'Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults' policy.

The Charity Commission have identified the following issues as being higher risk and must be reported:

- Significant financial loss to a charity;
- Serious harm to beneficiaries and, in particular, vulnerable beneficiaries;
- Misuse of a charity for terrorist purposes (including charity links with or support for terrorism, financial or otherwise, connections to proscribed organisations, misuse of a charity to foster criminal extremism);
- Serious criminality and/or illegal activity within or involving a charity (including fraud and money laundering);
- Charities set up for an illegal or improper purpose including the use of abusive tax arrangements;
- Charities deliberately being used for significant private advantage;
- Where a charity's independence is seriously called into question; OR
- Other significant non-compliance, breaches of trust or abuse that otherwise impact significantly on public trust and confidence in the charity and charities generally.

In addition, trustees must report an incident if:

- The incident is also reported to the police or other statutory agencies (unless it is a technical or minor issue that poses little or no risk);
- The charity, or individuals associated with the charity and in connection with their role within it, are the subject of a police or other statutory agency investigation;
- We decide that the incident presents a serious or significant risk to the charity, its beneficiaries, reputation or assets;
- The internal risk assessment of the incident finds that the charity should act to avoid a serious or significant risk to the charity, its beneficiaries, reputation, services or assets; OR
- Our professional advisers have advised us to notify the Charity Commission of the incident.

Signed: Jo Taylor (Treasurer)

Date: October 2019