

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The policy contained here is formulated to help Children's and Youth Workers to respond appropriately when abuse is disclosed or discovered. There are guidelines in the appendix at the back of this document which clarify what the definitions of abuse are.

Responding to allegations or evidence of abuse
If workers/helpers suspect that abuse has occurred, they

1. Report concerns as soon as possible to the Child Protection Coordinator [[Sarah Haynes - Tel: 07733 346839](#)] who is nominated by the Leadership Team to act on their behalf in referring all allegations or suspicions of neglect and abuse to the statutory authorities. They will discuss the suspicions with the Senior Pastor [[Wynn James - Tel: 07913 726192](#)] If you cannot contact Sarah Haynes, the matter should be brought to the Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator [[Lucy Stewart - Tel: 07885610305](#)]
2. Report the incident directly to the Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator or Senior Pastor if the suspicion in any way involves the Child Protection Co-ordinator.
If the suspicions in any way implicate both the Child Protection Co-ordinator and the Deputy Child Protection co ordinator or the Senior Pastor, then the report should be made in the first instance to Thirtyone:eight: Telephone [0303 003 1111](#) to discuss and ask for advice both by phone and in writing.
3. If any of the above cannot be contacted, report the incident to Social Services Tel: [01423 568009](#) ([01904 762314](#) out of office hours)

Do not discuss allegations with anyone other than those nominated above.

Allegations of physical injury or neglect.

If a child has a physical injury or symptom of neglect, the Child Protection Co-ordinator will:

1. Contact Social Services for advice if concerned about the child / young person's safety;
2. Seek emergency medical attention where appropriate and advise doctor of any suspicions of abuse;
3. In other circumstances, speak with the parent/guardian and suggest that medical help/attention is sought for the child/young person. The doctor will then initiate further action if necessary.
4. Inform a member of the Leadership Team, unless one of them is involved.

If appropriate the parent/ guardian will be encouraged to seek help from the Social Services Department. Where the parent/guardian is unwilling to seek help, the Church Worker will offer to go with them. If they still fail to act, the Child Protection Co-ordinator should, in cases of real concern, contact Social Services for advice