



## 1. DEFINITION & SCOPE

**Scope:** This policy applies to all SAT-7 UK staff and volunteers

A **vulnerable adult** is defined as: A person aged 18 years or over, who is receiving or may need community care services because of learning, physical or mental disability, age or illness, who are or may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against abuse. It may also include victims of domestic abuse, hate crime and anti-social abuse behavior.

A **child** is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Although SAT-7 UK does not work directly with children or vulnerable adults, we are committed to good practice in dealing with any safeguarding issues.

There may be occasions when children or vulnerable adults are present during a SAT-7 event or presentation. In such a context the SAT-7 UK staff member or volunteer must have regard to the safeguarding policy of the organization they are visiting and must follow the practical guidance contained in their policy.

We affirm our belief in the God-given value of each child and vulnerable adult with whom we have contact. In recognition of God's wholehearted commitment to them, we will also treat each individual with value and dignity and aim that none suffers physical, sexual, emotional or spiritual abuse of any kind. It is the responsibility of each one of us to safeguard children and or vulnerable adults against physical, sexual, emotional or spiritual abuse and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.

## 3. RECOGNISING AND RESPONDING TO AN ALLEGATION OR SUSPICION OF ABUSE

Defining child abuse is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. Children and or vulnerable adults in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or is in a trusted relationship with the child or vulnerable adult.

If any safeguarding concerns arise, they should be reported to the Chief Executive who is nominated by the Board to act on their behalf in dealing with allegations or suspicions of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities where required. Following receipt of safeguarding concerns about a child or vulnerable adult, the Chief Executive should contact the local Social Services or local police without delay. SAT-7 UK Staff and volunteers should in addition follow the procedure laid out by the organisation or church they are visiting and contact their safeguarding officer.

Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made as soon as practically possible in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place (accessed only by the safeguarding officer/ Chief Executive).



#### **4. DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST WORKERS WITH CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE ADULTS**

If an accusation is made against a SAT-7 worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Chief Executive will without delay inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

There may also be a requirement under law to make a referral to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) who hold the lists of people barred from working with children and vulnerable adults– this will require discussion with the LADO.

#### **5. PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

##### **a) GENERAL SAFETY AND PRACTICAL GUIDELINES**

- Treat all children and vulnerable adults with respect and dignity
- Be thoughtful about language and tone of voice
- Make sure that the physical environment is as safe as practicable. Consider such things as:
  - What would happen in the event of a fire or another safety incident?
  - Are arrangements for comings and goings adequate to prevent those in your care wandering off and hurting themselves?
  - What measures are there to prevent ill-intentioned people having access to those who are in our care?
- Ensure that activities we are responsible for are safe and that suitable safety precautions are taken.
- Ensure that those in your care are properly supervised while in our care.
- Volunteers should work in pairs wherever possible, so that:
  - There are two volunteers with any size group of children or vulnerable adults
  - They are not alone with a child or vulnerable adults (even to pray with them) or where they cannot be seen by other adults
- Learn to control and discipline those in your care without using physical means
- Avoid the following:
  - Invading the privacy of children or vulnerable adults (particularly in bathrooms and when they are changing)
  - Rough, physical or sexually provocative games
  - Inappropriate or intrusive touching and language
  - Any scapegoating, ridiculing or rejecting of a child or vulnerable adults
- Particular care needs to be taken into account for the needs of disabled and other vulnerable children or vulnerable adults as abuse will be more likely to go unrecognised and unreported due to attitudes and assumptions about disability

##### **b) GUIDELINES ON TOUCH**

- Keep everything public; a hug in the context of a group can be very different to a hug behind closed doors
- Touch should be related to the person in your care's needs and not the volunteer's
- Touch should be age appropriate and generally initiated by the individual rather than the volunteer
- Avoid any physical activity that is, or may be thought to be, sexually stimulating to the child or vulnerable adult.
- Children or vulnerable adults are entitled to privacy to ensure personal dignity



- Children or vulnerable adult have the right to decide how much physical contact they have with others, except in exceptional circumstances when they need medical attention
- Team members should monitor one another in the area of physical contact. They should be free to help each other by constructively challenging anything which could be misunderstood or misconstrued
- Concerns about abuse should always be reported

**c) WHEN TRAVELLING OVERSEAS HOW CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES MAY WELL BE DIFFERENT**

After arrival, volunteers or staff should seek advice from their hosts to ensure that they are aware of and follow any local laws and policies that apply to child or vulnerable adult protection. They must also take due account of locally prevailing conditions. In some situations, attitudes to corporal punishment are very different from those in the UK and in many situations, parents may struggle to provide even basic food and shelter.

All concerns/incidents should be reported to somebody in a leadership position or even the police, if appropriate.