



SAT-7 UK Safeguarding Policy

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Section 1

Details of the organisation

SAT-7 UK is part of an international Christian media ministry, bringing life changing joy to the people of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through powerful, faith-filled television and digital media programmes. Our vision is to see a growing Church in the MENA, confident in Christian faith and witness, serving the community and contributing to the good of society and culture. SAT-7 UK seeks to equip and engage the UK church with resources and engagement opportunities to pray for and support the church in the MENA. SAT-7 UK achieves this through the provision of publication, websites, emails, podcast, grant applications, meeting with supporter and donors in 1:1 and group settings, church and small group presentations and through SAT-7 led events and by attending events, conferences and seminars led by others.

Whilst our activities delivered by staff and volunteers are aimed at adults, we do recognise that children, young people and vulnerable adults can also engage with them. Where children, young people and vulnerable adults attend any of our events, for instance at a speaking engagement or conference, they should also be under the supervision of a responsible adult that is not the SAT-7 staff member or volunteer.

Name of Organisation: SAT-7 UK Trust Limited (known as SAT-7 UK)

Address: 3-4 New Road, Chippenham SN15 1EJ

Telephone: 01249 765 865

General Email address: respond@sat7uk.org

Senior Leader Name: Rachel Fadipe

Senior Leader Contact: rfadipe@sat7uk.org 07528389776

Safeguarding Lead Name: Rachel Fadipe

Safeguarding Lead Contact: rfadipe@sat7uk.org 07528389776

Charity Number: 1060612

Company Number: 3301736

Insurance Company: Aviva Charity Insurance

Section 2: Governance and leadership

Our commitment

This policy applies to all the contexts in which SAT-7 UK operates including online as well as in person activities. We recognise that abuse and threats to wellbeing can occur in a range of settings which children and adults at risk experience as they live their lives. These contexts may not be connected to SAT-7 UK and could, for example be domestic or church-based. Whatever the context we will respond in line with our safeguarding commitments and procedures.

Our safeguarding commitment

Consistent with our aim and values, we commit to the protection and safeguarding of all, including children, young people and vulnerable adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to “all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”. We also concur with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child.” As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

A model safeguarding statement can be found in APPENDIX 1.

The policy and any attached practice guidelines are based on the ten safeguarding standards published by Thirtyone:eight ([Our Ten standards | Thirtyone:eight](#)).

Governance

SAT-7 UK's Board of Trustees is appointed to have independent authority and legal responsibility. This includes having a critical role in decision making and compliance as well as setting the values, standards and behaviours of the organisation.

The standards and behaviours may be referred to as the culture of the organisation or “the way we do things around here”. Culture can be shaped in both negative and positive ways.

“The culture of a charity goes beyond mere compliance with legal and regulatory demands. Charity governance is most effective when it provides assurances not just that legal requirements are met, but that the behaviour of people working for the charity, and those who come into contact with it, is proper and ethical. Culture, alongside good governance, can be pivotal to whether a charity achieves its stated object” (IICSA The Governance Institute, 2017).

The Board of Trustees will have overarching responsibility for safeguarding within the organisation.

SAT-7 UK is based in England but also can engage in activities in Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Ireland. The regulatory bodies for these regions are:

- England and Wales [Charity Commission] – **Reporting Serious Incidents [RSI]**
[How to report a serious incident in your charity - GOV.UK](#)
- Northern Ireland [the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland] – **Serious incident reporting**
[New guidance on serious incident reporting | The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland](#)
- Scotland [Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, OSCR] – **Raise a Concern**
[OSCR | Raise a concern](#)

The following Safeguarding Policy and Statement aims, to not only meet the requirements of ensuring a safe environment for those accessing activities in our organisation but to also build an open culture where:

- those who lead do so by example,
- are committed to the safeguarding of all
- those that work or volunteer are safely recruited and trained for their roles.
- there are accountability structures
- with codes of conduct
- the values of SAT-7 UK are embedded in its day-to-day actions and behaviours of its people
- and there is open communication

Section 3

Prevention

Understanding abuse and neglect

Defining child abuse or abuse against an adult is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. Children and adults with care and support needs 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.

For the purposes of this policy, a child will be referred to as someone under 18 years old. An adult at risk of harm will be defined in this policy as anyone over 18 years old who has needs for care and support, and as a result of these needs, is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect. Refer to Appendix 2 for the full definitions used across the United Kingdom.

To safeguard those in our organisation 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:

1. States 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:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This policy is in line with the following legislation:

- The Children Acts 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- The Care Act 2014
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Adult Support and Protection Act (Scotland) 2007
- Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2017

- Safeguarding for Northern Ireland Procedures Manual 2017
- Adult Safeguarding: Protection and Prevention in Partnership Northern Ireland 2015
- The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child

Detailed definitions, and signs and indicators of abuse, as well as how to respond to a disclosure of abuse, are included here in our policy. Please see guidance notes for a list of these. APPENDIX 2.

Positions of Trust

All adults working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are in a position of trust. All those in positions of trust need to understand the power this can give them over those they care for and the responsibility they have because of this relationship.

It is vital that all workers ensure they do not, even unknowingly, use their position of power and authority inappropriately. They should always maintain professional boundaries and avoid behaviour which could be misinterpreted.

As of April 2022, it is illegal in England and Wales and Northern Ireland for those in positions of trust in a faith setting to engage in sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old under their care or supervision.

Safer recruitment

The Leadership will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with government guidance on safe recruitment. This includes ensuring that:

- There is a written job description / person specification for the post
- Those applying have completed an application form
- Those short listed have been interviewed
- Safeguarding has been discussed at interview
- Written references have been obtained, and followed up where appropriate
- For the Trustees, Directors and roles defined as externally* facing i.e. those with a direct contact with supporters, a self-declaration form and the relevant Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS (England and Wales), Disclosure Scotland (Scotland) or AccessNI (Northern Ireland) will be required or direct evidence of the above will need to be provided (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information)
**This will at least include Philanthropy & Partnerships team and Church Engagement Team.*
- Qualifications where relevant have been verified
- A suitable training programme and induction is provided for the successful applicant
- The applicant has completed a probationary period.
- The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.

Safeguarding training

The Leadership is committed to on-going safeguarding training and development opportunities for all workers, developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect everyone. All our staff will receive induction training and undertake recognised safeguarding training on a regular basis.

The Leadership will provide or facilitate all staff/volunteers undertaking basic safeguarding training which will be renewed every three years.

The Leadership will provide or facilitate the Safeguarding Lead undertaking advance safeguarding training which will be renewed every two years. Where possible, the Leadership will provide or facilitate additional training for the requirements of the role.

The Leadership will provide or facilitate specialist safeguarding training for the governance board/board of trustees which will be renewed every three years.

The Leadership will also ensure that children and adults with care and support needs are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

Practice Guidelines

As an organisation with activities that may on occasion include children, young people and adults with care and support needs, we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of potential harm or abuse and false or unfounded accusations.

We will ensure good practice guidelines are followed for every activity we are involved in.

For some activities you will need specific forms, e.g. consent forms, risk assessments etc.

Management of Workers – Codes of Conduct

We are committed to supporting all our staff and volunteers and ensuring they receive support and supervision. All staff and volunteers have been issued with a company ethos and code of conduct that lays out our expectations about what is expected of them in their support of children, young people and adults with care and support needs. They will also receive training as necessary.

Section 4:

Partnership working

The diversity of organisations and settings means there can be great variation in practice when it comes to safeguarding children, young people and adults with care and support needs. This can be because of cultural tradition, belief and religious practice or understanding, for example, of what constitutes abuse.

We therefore have clear guidelines with regards to our expectations of those with whom we work in partnership, whether in the UK or not. We will agree with all partners our safeguarding expectations. SAT-7 UK's ministry partner is SAT-7 International based in Cyprus and operates within the Middle East and North Africa. SAT-7 UK and SAT-7 International agreed a joint ministry agreement in 2007. SAT-7 International has a child protection policy which is shared with SAT-7 UK and review annually. It is also our expectation that any organisation using our premises, as part of the letting agreement will have their own policy that meets our safeguarding standards.

We believe good communication is essential in promoting safeguarding, both to those we wish to protect, to everyone involved in working with children and adults with care and support needs and to all those with whom we work in partnership. This safeguarding policy is just one means of promoting safeguarding.

Section 5

Responding to allegations of abuse

Under no circumstances should a worker or volunteer carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse.

The staff member or volunteer in receipt of disclosures, allegation or concern of abuse should make a report of the concern as soon as possible, in the following way:

- Record all the information that you have received ([Form A](#)). If a disclosure is made to you, do not promise to keep the matter secret, but explain that you will need to inform the people who have responsibility for responding to such disclosures.
- Report the concern to the Safeguarding Lead (SL) *. You should never investigate the concern but should always share the concern with the SL even if you do not have consent to do so. Safeguarding Leader to complete [Form B](#).
- Never share any information about this case (either in writing or orally) with anyone not mentioned in these procedures.

*When speaking within a church or community context report any concerns to the safeguarding lead of that entity and also to the SAT-7 UK SL, named below.

Name: Rachel Fadipe (hereafter the "Safeguarding Lead")

Tel: 07528 389776

Email: rfadipe@sat7uk.org

The above is nominated by the Leadership to act on their behalf in dealing with the disclosure, allegation or concern, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.

In the absence of the Safeguarding Lead or, if the concerns in any way involve the Safeguarding Lead, then the report should be made to:

Name: Martin Thomas (hereafter the "Deputy Safeguarding Lead")

Tel: 07944 963286

Email: mthomas@sat7uk.org

If the concerns implicate both the Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Safeguarding Lead, then the report should be made in the first instance to:

Name: Julia Bicknell (hereafter the "Safeguarding Trustee")

Email: jbicknell@sat7uk.org

The worker or volunteer can also contact Thirtyone:eight to get further advice if required: Tel: 0303 003 1111. Option 2

The Safeguarding Lead may first ring the Thirtyone:eight helpline for advice. Based on the concern, they may then then contact the relevant statutory services.

For England:

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0108

Police: 101 or 999 if person at risk of harm:

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): LADO@wiltshire.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 456 0108 (Option 6)

Charity Commission for England and Wales: 0300 066 9197

The Safeguarding Lead may need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern, such as:

- Chair of Trustees or trustee responsible for safeguarding who may need to liaise with the insurance company or the charity regulator (Charity Commission for England and Wales, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) to report a serious incident/raise a concern (Scotland).
- Local Authority Designated Officer – LADO (England and Wales), Child’s Named Person (Scotland) or the Gateway Team (Northern Ireland) if the allegation concerns a worker or volunteer working with someone under 18.

Concerns must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.

Whilst disclosures, allegations or concerns of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Lead, the absence of the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead should not delay referral to the statutory services, the police, police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) or taking advice from Thirtyone:eight.

The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead in their role and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need-to-know basis.

It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:eight, although the Leadership hope that members of the organisation will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Lead(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrate its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:

Allegations of physical injury, neglect or emotional abuse:

- If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead will:
- If the child requires immediate medical attention, contact the relevant medical services, informing the Doctor of any concerns.
- Contact Children's Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland), Gateway Services (Northern Ireland) (or Thirtyone:eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- If the disclosure, allegation or concern is directly about the parents, then do not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland), Gateway Services (Northern Ireland).
- For lower-level concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of harm.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Care direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by Thirtyone:eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether to refer a case to Children's Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland), Gateway Services (Northern Ireland).

Allegations of sexual abuse:

In the event of allegations or concerns of sexual abuse, the Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead will:

- Contact the Children's Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland), Gateway Services (Northern Ireland) for children and families and police, police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) on 101.
- Depending on the circumstances, they will need to consider whether it is appropriate to speak to the parents of the child. If they are not sure about this, then they will contact Thirtyone:eight.
- Seek and follow the advice given by Thirtyone:eight if for any reason they are unsure whether to contact Children's Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland), Gateway Services (Northern Ireland)/police, police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI). Thirtyone:eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

Allegations of financial abuse (Wales):

- In the event of allegations or concerns of financial abuse, the Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead will:
- Contact Children's Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland), Gateway Services (Northern Ireland) to report the concerns and the police, police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Detailed procedures where there is a concern about an adult at risk:

Concerns or allegations of abuse or harm including; physical, sexual, organisational, financial, discriminatory, neglect, self-neglect, forced marriage, modern slavery, domestic abuse.

If there is concern about any of the above, Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead will:

- If the adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services on 999, informing them of any suspicions.
- Contact Adult Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland) or Adult Social Work Services (Northern Ireland) who will be able to advise whether this reaches the safeguarding threshold and actions required. Alternatively, Thirtyone:eight can be contacted for advice.

If there is a concern regarding spiritual abuse, Safeguarding Lead will:

- Identify support services for the Survivor i.e., counselling or other pastoral support
- Contact Thirtyone:eight and in discussion with them will consider appropriate action with regards to the scale of the concern.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with children/young people:

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Safeguarding Lead, will:

- Make a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer -LADO(England and Wales), Child's Named Person (Scotland) or the Gateway Team (Northern Ireland) whose function is to handle all allegations against adults who work with children and young people whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- Make a referral to the relevant Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS (England and Wales), Disclosure Scotland (Scotland) or AccessNI (Northern Ireland) for consideration of the person being placed on the barred list for working with children or adults with care and support needs. This decision should be informed by the Local Authority Designated Officer (England and Wales), Children's Social Care (Scotland) or the Gateway Team (Northern Ireland) if they are involved.
- Share information about the concern with the police, police, police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with adults with care and support needs:

The safeguarding Lead will:

- Liaise with Adult Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland) or Adult Social Work Services (Northern Ireland) to establish whether this can be investigated under their safeguarding processes.
- Make a referral to the relevant Disclosure and Barring Service DBS (England and Wales), Disclosure Scotland (Scotland) or AccessNI (Northern Ireland) following the advice of Adult Social Services.
- Share information about the concern with the police, police, police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI).

The legislation across all four UK nations (The Care Act 2014, Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership key documents 2015 (Northern Ireland) and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014) places the duty upon Adult Social Care to investigate situations of harm to adults with care and support needs. This may result in a range of options including action against the person or organisation causing the harm, increasing the support for the carers or no further action if the 'victim' chooses for no further action and they have the capacity to communicate their decision. However, this is a decision for Adult Social Care to decide not the organisation.

Allegations of non-recent sexual abuse from an adult:

If an accusation is made of non-recent sexual abuse from a child, the procedure in relation to sexual abuse will be followed (please see above).

If an accusation is made of non-recent sexual abuse from an adult, the Safeguarding Lead will:

- Give the adult the option to report this to the Police (England and Wales), Police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI). If the adult does not wish to report this to the police, then the Safeguarding Lead can pass on the information relating to the alleged Perpetrator, however, must not share details of the Survivor.
- If the alleged Perpetrator is in a role working or volunteering with children or young people, make a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer -LADO(England and Wales), Children's Social Care (Scotland) or the Gateway Team (Northern Ireland) whose function is to handle all allegations against adults who work with children and young people whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- If the alleged Perpetrator is in a role working with adults with care and support needs, liaise with Adult Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland) or Adult Social Work Services (Northern Ireland) to establish whether this can be investigated under their safeguarding processes.
- If the alleged Perpetrator is in a role within your organisation, contact Thirtyone:eight and in discussion with them will consider appropriate action with regards to the scale of the concern.

Section 6

Wellbeing Support and Pastoral Care

Supporting those affected by abuse

The Leadership is committed to offering wellbeing support/pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the organisation.

Please see below the details for the individual responsible for wellbeing support/pastoral care:

Name: Rachel Fadipe

Tel: 07528389776

Email: rfadipe@sat7uk.org

Working with those who may pose a risk

When someone visiting SAT-7 UK is known to pose a potential risk to children, or adults with care and support needs; the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer wellbeing support/pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and adults with care and support needs, set boundaries for that person, which they will be expected to keep. These boundaries will be based on a risk assessment and through consultation with appropriate external parties.

Adoption of the policy

This policy was agreed by the leadership and will be reviewed annually on:

Signed by: Rachel Fadipe

Position: CEO

Signed by: Julia Bicknell

Position: Trustee

Date: 1/6/2025

APPENDIX 1:

Safeguarding statement

To be displayed in a prominent place & website

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

Name of Place of organisation: SAT-7 UK

The following statement was agreed by the leadership on: 15th May 2025

- SAT-7 UK is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent harm or Abuse to children and adults with care and support needs in all their recognised forms.
- We recognise that the personal dignity and rights of adults and children and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all people should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of SAT-7 UK.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- We believe every child and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that all those we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that at SAT-7 UK all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of all relevant legislation including, but not limited to; Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and referring concerns about adults with care and support needs to the local authority under the Care Act 2014.
- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.
- Supporting all in SAT-7 UK affected by abuse.

We recognise:

- Children’s Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland), Gateway Services (Northern Ireland) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police, police Scotland or Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding Leads for this organisation.

Rachel Fadipe - Safeguarding Lead

Martin Thomas - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

A copy of SAT-7 UK’s policy can be found in the staff handbook.

Signed by leadership

Signed Rachel Fadipe (on behalf of Leadership team) _____

Julia Bicknell (on behalf of trustees) _____

Date __13/10/2025_____

APPENDIX 2

Definitions:

Children

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the relevant legislation defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years old.

In Scotland, the definition of the child varies depending on the contexts. For example children who are under child protection may be classed as a child up to 16 years old as opposed to 18 years old. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 legislation can apply to over 16-year-olds and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, includes all children and young people up to the age of 18.

Adults at risk of harm/adults in need of protection

There are different criteria mapped out across UK legislation to define an adult at risk of harm under safeguarding. Please see below for a breakdown across the four nations of the UK:

England:

The Care Act 2014 states that adult safeguarding duties apply to any person aged 18 years or older who:

- Has care and support needs.
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- Is unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs.

Scotland:

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 refers throughout to an 'adult'. In terms of Section 53 of the Act, 'adult' means a person aged **16 years** or over.

Section 3(1) defines an 'adult at risk' as someone who meets all of the following three-point criteria:

- They are unable to safeguard their own **well-being, property, rights or other interests;**
- They are at risk of harm; and
- Because they are **affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity** they are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

Wales:

Section 126(1) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines an “adult at risk” as an adult who:-

- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect;
- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs);
- And as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Northern Ireland:

An ‘**Adult at risk of harm**’ is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:

- a) personal characteristics AND/OR
- b) life circumstances

Personal characteristics may include, but are not limited to, age, disability, special educational needs, illness, mental or physical frailty or impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the mind or brain. Life circumstances may include, but are not limited to, isolation, socio-economic factors and environmental living conditions.

An ‘**Adult in need of protection**’ is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:

- a) personal characteristics AND/OR
- b) life circumstances AND
- c) who is unable to protect their own well-being, property, assets, rights or other interests;

AND

- d) where the action or inaction of another person or persons is causing, or is likely to cause, him/her to be harmed.

In order to meet the definition of an ‘adult in need of protection’ either (a) or (b) must be present, in addition to both elements (c), and (d).

Please see the following link for support with this: [Types of abuse](#)

E7 Safeguarding Policy

Purpose: This policy raises awareness of safeguarding, how to recognise and respond to an allegation or suspicion of abuse and also provides guidance to staff and volunteers on good practice should they find themselves working with children and/or vulnerable adults

Approver: Rachel Fadipe

Review period: Annually

Document Control

Ref	Date	Author	Revision
v 1.0	1 June 2025	R Fadipe	New policy fully replacing previous policy. This policy is based on the 31:8 recommended template.
V 1.1	13 th Oct 25	R Fadipe	Removed C Beddoes – added Martin Thomas a deputy safeguarding lead.