

Protection of Adults at Risk Policy Statement



Rationale

As Christians we are charged to love and care for each other. This is particularly so as far as the most at risk members of our community are concerned. We believe that the Christian family of the church places responsibilities on all her members to ensure that the environment is safe for all. This includes safety for all who are at risk and all who wish to share in the life of the church.

Definitions

There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service):

Any adult aged 18 or over who due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation.

Some adults might be more at risk than others, and there are some times in life where risks may increase. Some of these circumstances may include:

- Learning, sensory or physical disability
- Old age and frailty (especially if it creates a dependency on or needing help from others)
- Mental health problems
- Dementia or confusion
- Illness
- Addiction or dependence on alcohol, drugs or medication
- Bereavement
- Past abuse or trauma
- English is not their first language

King's Church Mildenhall is concerned that those who work with adults at risk should be aware of the potential abuse of power. Training in good practice and awareness of adult abuse shall be included in the recruitment of those who work with adults at risk, on behalf of the church.

Our Policy Statement

- As members of this church we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of adults at risk and ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of adults at risk and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We are dedicated in the pastoral care and support of those who have experienced abuse.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with adults at risk.
- The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- The church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain published in Safe To Belong 2015.
- Each person who works with adults at risk will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

Barbara Tunningley is the Designated Person for Safeguarding and is responsible for representing the concerns and views of adults at risk at our meetings and to outside bodies. They also are the person to contact for any concerns or questions regarding protecting adults at risk.

This statement was adopted at the church meeting held on **April 27th 2017**.

It will be reviewed each year by the safeguarding team.

Signed: 

Position: Associate Pastor

