



Pr Les Ackie
Safeguarding in the Church
Ensuring church is a safe place for
our church family

1

God's Heart for the Vulnerable



“Speak up for those who cannot
speak for themselves; for the
rights of all who are destitute.”
Proverbs 31:8

2

SDA Church Statement



Seventh-day Adventists affirm
the dignity and worth of each
human being and decry all forms
of abuse. We recognise the
problem of abuse is serious with
long term effects so Christians
must respond to abuse within
our church and community. To
remain indifferent and
unresponsive is to condone and
perpetuate abusive behaviour.

3

SDA Church Statement



We cooperate with professional
services, to listen and care for
those suffering from abuse and
speak out in defence of victims,
helping all identify and access
professional services and
providing a ministry of
reconciliation where attitudes
and behaviour allow.

4

Keeping Our Church Family Safe



5

Child Protection

CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection covers the
specific actions we take to
protect children from abuse

6

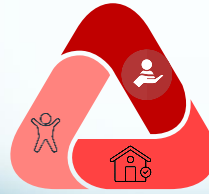
What is Abuse?



Abuse is the violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons through the misuse of power and control

7

Child Protection



- 1 Protecting minors (under 18) from harm
- 2 Preventing damage to their health and development
- 3 Ensuring they are surrounded by safe and effective care

8



9

History of Child Protection in the UK



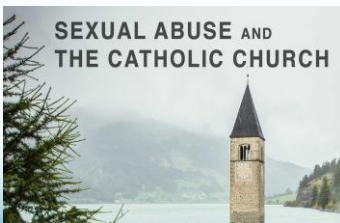
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Missed opportunities by a plethora of agencies and professionals

10

Systemic Protection of Abusers



11

Systemic Protection of Abusers



The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) said some religious organisations in England and Wales were "morally failing" children

Victim blaming; not openly discussing matters of sexuality; abuse of power by religious leaders; men dominating the leadership; mistrust of non-religious agencies, misusing the concept of "forgiveness"

12



13



14

Keeping Our Church Family Safe

Perpetrators tend to target the voluntary sector because it tends to be less regulated

15

Grooming Tactics

How do you tell the difference between grooming behaviour and healthy caring/mentoring?

16

Grooming Tactics

Grooming is patterned behaviour designed to increase opportunities for sexual assault

- Target the Victim
- Gaining Trust
- Filling a Need
- Isolating the Victim
- Sexualizing the Relationship
- Maintaining Control

17

Keeping Our Church Family Safe

Most abuse against children happens at home

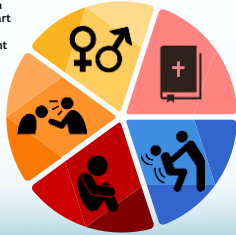
18

Types of Abuse

Sexual Abuse:
Involves forcing or enticing a vulnerable person to take part in sexual activities through physical touch, words or sight

Emotional Abuse:
Persistent maltreatment so as to cause adverse effects on the victims emotional wellbeing

Neglect:
The persistent failure to meet basic physical and/or psychological needs



Physical Abuse: Any form of abuse which intentionally causes physical harm

Spiritual Abuse:
The use of religious authority to cause emotional or psychological harm

19

Signs of Abuse and Neglect in Children

Sexual:

Bruising in genital area
Change in sexual behaviour
Difficulty walking or sitting
STDs
Torn, stained, bloody underwear
Self-harming
Allegation of abuse

Emotional:

denial of choice
withdrawal into shell, nervousness
infantilisation
bullying/harassment
depression/anxiety
verbal abuse
Deprivation of social contact

Neglect:

looking uncared for and unhappy
being withdrawn or aggressive
having lingering health problems or injuries
weight loss
dehydration
lack of medical care

20

Types of Abuse

Witnessing domestic abuse

Financial/Economic abuse

Organisational abuse

Child & adult trafficking

Bullying

Honour-based violence

Modern slavery

Organised Abuse

Online Abuse

Neglect/Acts of Omissions

Genital mutilation

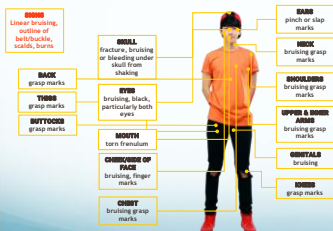
21

Common Sites of Accidental Physical Injuries



22

Common Sites of Non-Accidental Physical Injuries

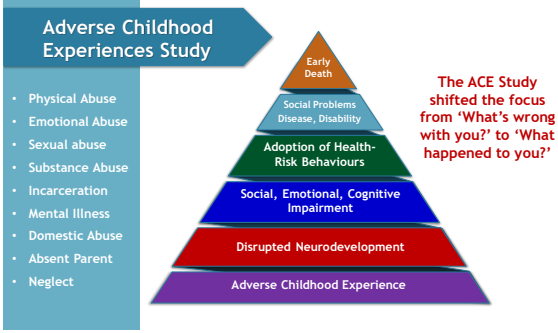


23

The Impact of Abuse



24



25



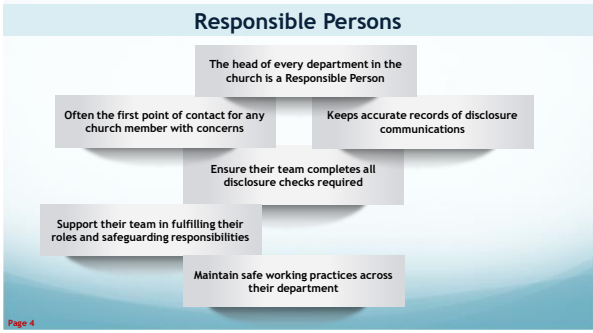
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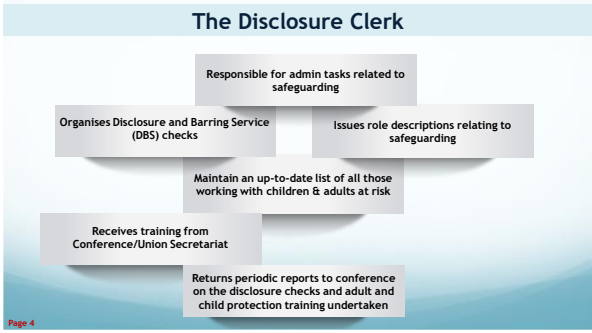
27



28



29



30

How Do We Keep Our Church Family Safe?



Those who are unwilling to comply with safeguarding procedures must not be allowed to hold church office

31

How Do We Keep Our Church Family Safe?



32

The Role We Each Play

All staff and volunteers:-

- Fully comply with the child protection policy.
- Attend appropriate training
- Inform your designated safeguarding person of any concerns

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- Holding private that which is personal
- Sharing in order to bring safety where harm or risk of harm is present

33

Who Requires a DBS Check?



Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Any individual working or intending to work with children and/or adults at risk, must have a criminal record check

Does the role mean that the relevant individual either supervised/unsupervised on a frequent/infrequent basis, teaches, trains, instructs, cares for or supervises children or provides advice/guidance on physical, emotional or educational well-being to children?

34

KCFS is Team Ministry



Combatting abuse is everybody's responsibility

35

Reasonable Grounds for Reporting

A child tells you that they have been or are at risk of being abused

Someone else tells you that they know of a child who has been or is at risk of being abused

You have concerns that the child may have been or is at risk of being abused based appearance or behaviour

Page 8, 37

36

Knowing How to Respond to Concerns

Share concerns immediately with DSL or Responsible Person

Concerns of immediate danger must be reported directly to the police

Avoid decisions about the vulnerable without necessary information to do so



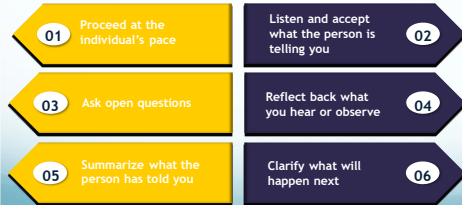
Always remember that the welfare of the child or adult is the paramount concern

Adults may need support to take actions to protect themselves

37

Responding to Concerns

Be guided by your designated person. If you feel able to speak with the person disclosing abuse:



Page 46

38

If Abuse Is Reported:



- Remember you are not conducting an investigation. Never push for information
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell you and that you take what they have said seriously
- Explain what you are going to do next and what is going to happen
- Record all you have heard and done (see appendix)
- Contact the relevant authority

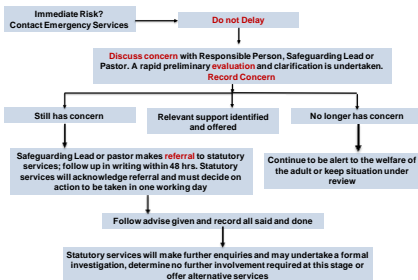
39

Recording Safeguarding Concerns

Careful notes must be kept, recording factual information and direct quotes where possible. Notes should be signed and dated and kept securely

40

How to Respond to Concerns of Abuse



41

The Four 'R's



42



43

Keeping the Church Family Safe

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44