

What should I do if a child makes an allegation or discloses information indicating abuse?

Do

- Listen and take it seriously
- Be attentive and look at them whilst they are speaking
- Stay calm, even if on the inside you feel something different
- Show acceptance of what they say (even if you think the story sounds unlikely) by reflecting back words and phrases they have used
- Tell the child that you have to pass the information onto a trusted adult
- Write down everything in as much detail as you can, using the child's words, as soon as possible after the conversation. Include the date and time and who else was present
- Report what you have heard to the designated person responsible for child protection

Don't

- Try to get more information from the child by questioning him / her
- Ask leading questions
- Make judgements
- Express disbelief
- Say things or display behaviour that suggests you are shocked
- Comment on the situation
- Promise to keep secrets
- Keep the information to yourself

What else should I do to help keep children safe?

- Always try to work where there are other people around
- If you have to be in a room along with a child, then keep the door open
- Never physically restrain a child (if it is the only option left, then ask for help. If on your own then call for help.
- Abide by the Bearfield Child Protection Policy
- If you have concerns about toileting a child (e.g. In a crèche setting, then please speak to the parent beforehand to ask what they would like you to do. Toileting the child is the responsibility of the parent, which they can delegate to you whilst their child is in your care. If you are unsure then you will need to send for the parent.
- Report to James Vaughton any behaviour by adults towards children that concerns you.

Responsibilities

It is not your responsibility to decide whether a child is being abused, but it is your responsibility to take action (i.e. James Vaughton or in his absence Olly Price) if you have any concerns. The designated person will then make a decision about what to do next. If deemed necessary they will contact local social services.

For more information:

- www.ccpas.co.uk
- Emergency Number: 0845 60 70 888

Bearfield Church



Protecting our children and young people

A guide to promoting the welfare of our children and safeguarding them from harm

Bearfield Church
Huntingdon Street
Bradford on Avon
Wiltshire
BA15 1RE

Pastor: Sue Glanville (01225) 866787

Child Protection Contact:
James Vaughton (01225 867043)

The purpose of this leaflet

If you have been given a copy of this leaflet it is because you are a volunteer within the Bearfield children and youth work or because you hold a position of responsibility within the church. Either way you either directly or indirectly have oversight and responsibility for duty of care towards children and young people who get involved in the ministry of Bearfield Church.

As the safeguarding of children should be a priority for the local church, it is vital that you know what to do if you were to see or hear anything that concerned you regarding a child's safety or well-being. Having read this leaflet, we hope that you will be clear about how to proceed.

Introduction

Everyone who is part of Bearfield Church has a responsibility for promoting the welfare of children and young people in our care and doing all we can in safeguarding them from harm.

We have a responsibility and duty to work with others involved in the safeguarding of children and young people, for example, health, social care and the police. If we are worried about a child's safety or welfare, the church has a duty to report our concerns to the local social care team at Wiltshire Council.

Every Child Matters (ECM)

ECM was introduced by the Labour government. The ECM agenda has five outcomes which are relevant whatever the setting for the children and youth work taking place, these are that children should:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

Whilst not explicitly Christian or an exhaustive list of outcomes for a Christian community, these outcomes are something that should underpin our ministry with children and young people at Bearfield Church. They practically apply the theology that, all children are made in the image of God and hence loved and valued by God. Therefore as a church we should seek to see them as positive outcomes for children and young people within our children and youth work.

Designated person

James Vaughton is the designated person responsible for child protection in Bearfield Church. In his absence Olly Price is the deputy designated person responsible for child protection.

Bearfield Church has an up to date safeguarding children policy, which is based on the model policy from the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (www.ccpas.co.uk). If you are actively involved in the children and youth work you should have a copy. If you do not have a copy please email secretary@bearfield.org for a copy.

What kinds of abuse are there?

Abuse falls into the following categories and often occurs in a relationship of trust or responsibility. Children at risk of abuse could face harm in one or more of the following areas:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Spiritual

More detailed definitions of abuse and possible symptoms can be found on the Bearfield Safeguarding Policy.

Harm can be caused by one or more traumatic events that falls into one of the above categories. Harm is defined as something which interrupts, changes or damages the child's physical, emotional or psychological development.

What should I do if I have any concerns relating to the above categories of abuse (e.g. I notice unusual bruising on a child or I become aware of information indicating concerns)?

Tell the designated person responsible for child protection in Bearfield Church