



The Union of Welsh Independents



Undeb Bedyddwyr Cymru
The Baptist Union of Wales



The Presbyterian Church of Wales



Creating a SAFER CHURCH for all

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Level 1

4/2025



Course aim

- To gain a basic understanding of safeguarding and protecting children and vulnerable adults in your church context
- Know where to go for advice and support
- Know how to respond to concerns

Learning objectives

Look after yourself

Images or memories that upset you

Take a break


Advice and support
<https://panel.cymru/en/advice-and-support>

The Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel and your church...

The Panel was formed by the THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES, THE UNION OF WELSH INDEPENDENTS, THE BAPTIST UNION OF WALES to:

- Provide safeguarding support and advice – including policy, guidelines and safeguarding training
- Facilitate DBS checks for the three denominations
- Julie - the Panel Safeguarding Officer, is the Safeguarding lead officer for the three denominations and should be informed of all safeguarding matters.

Who are we?



What does a SAFER CHURCH look like?

5
Key Safeguarding Principles



5.
All know how to REPORT CONCERNS

4.
Consider who may be AT RISK and act to keep them safe

3.
HEALTHY CULTURE that is transparent and supportive
abuse is never hidden, and poor or controlling behaviour is never ignored

2.
The church takes SAFEGUARDING seriously
Leadership priority and there is a named safeguarding person

1.
Clear POLICIES and PROCEDURES
recruitment, best practice, reporting concerns





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES


“Safeguarding should be a governance priority for every charity”

www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees


Appendix 7
CHARITY TRUSTEES

Share information about trustee safeguarding responsibilities.

Clear guidance on how to comply with safeguarding policy and Charity Commission expectations.



<https://panel.cymru/en/safeguarding-vulnerable>

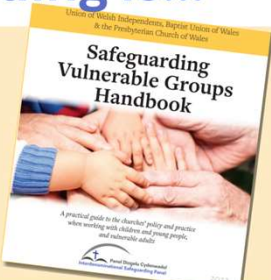


Safeguarding is...

PROTECTING vulnerable people from abuse, neglect and harm.

RECOGNISING the signs and symptoms of abuse and RESPONDING appropriately.

It is PREVENTATIVE as well as PROTECTIVE and involves PROVIDING SAFE ACTIVITIES and APPROPRIATE CARE.




Why is it important to know who is vulnerable/at risk of harm?

<https://panel.cymru/en/safeguarding-vulnerable>

Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014

- Safeguarding is PREVENTATIVE as well as PROTECTIVE.
- There is no requirement for abuse or neglect to have occurred before deciding to take action.
- YOU NEED TO CONSIDER WHO MAY BE AT RISK AND ACT TO KEEP THEM SAFE.





What makes someone more VULNERABLE or AT RISK?

- Lack of capacity and understanding
- Poor organisational practices
- Communication difficulties /no verbal communication
- Low level of self-esteem / self-worth
- "Institutionalised" or a looked after child
- Domestic violence
- Carers who misuse drugs/alcohol
- Carers with mental health problems
- Disability
- Isolated family or individual

A Child at risk

is a child who:

- is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm
- and
- has care and support needs (whether or not the local authority is meeting those needs)



Social Services and Social and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 Section 26(1)

An Adult at risk

is someone (18 years or over) who:

- is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect
- and
- has care and support needs (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect or the risk of it

How would you define VULNERABLE?



UNABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES


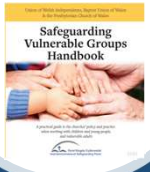
What is our Framework?

Our policy and procedures

Welsh / UK legislation and procedures

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2020




Other legislation e.g.:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004,
- UNCRC 1989 1989
- Human rights Act 1998

- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Data Protection Act 2018 & GDPR UK

Union of Welsh Independents, Baptist Union of Wales & the Presbyterian Church of Wales

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook



A practical guide to the churches' policy and practice when working with children and young people, and vulnerable adults

Panel Diogelu Cyfnewidiol Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

Our policy and procedures:

PROTECTING

- Understanding the signs and symptoms
- Know how to respond
- Know where to turn for support

PROVIDING SAFE ACTIVITIES & PREVENTING HARM

- Working in line with best practice with vulnerable groups
- Safer recruitment and selection practices

In the Handbook...

1. Introduction

2. Safer Recruitment and Selection

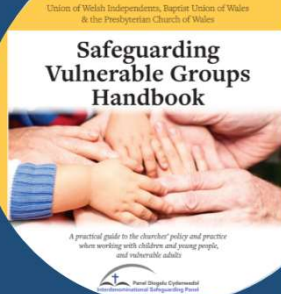
3. Children and Young People

4. Vulnerable Adults

5. Pastoral Care


6. Appendices

7. Forms



Union of Welsh Independents, Baptist Union of Wales & the Presbyterian Church of Wales

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook



A practical guide to the churches' policy and practice when working with children and young people, and vulnerable adults

Panel Diogelu Cyfnewidiol Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

Our Safeguarding Policy Statement

The church will care for and safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by following good practice in relation to the following:

1. Responding appropriately to concerns and allegations
2. Safer recruitment of workers and volunteers
3. Train and support their workers and volunteers in their role and in protecting vulnerable groups
4. Promoting good working practices and creating a safe environment

page 9

Our Safeguarding Policy Statement

As leaders and trustees of ... we are fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of our members and those entrusted to our care. The safeguarding policy statement, along with the guidelines and procedures outlined in the accompanying 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook', form our safeguarding policy and procedures. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victims of abuse and neglect and we recognise our obligation to ensure their safety in the activities carried out in the name of this church. We aim to provide a caring environment and to respond sensitively and respectfully to any concerns. Members of the church, past and staff and volunteers will also report to others, promote the ethos of listening to children and vulnerable people and consider themselves to be a resource for others for the protection of the Christian Church. The church will care for children, young people and vulnerable adults and safeguard them by following good practice in relation to the following:

1. Responding appropriately to concerns and allegations (Handbook Section 1.1 and 1.2)
2. Safer recruitment of workers and volunteers (Handbook Section 1.3)
3. Training and support for workers and volunteers (Handbook Section 1.4)
4. Promoting good working practices (Handbook Section 1.5 and 1.6)

Our responsibility

We acknowledge that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we should report any concerns directly to the Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel. A local first safeguarding officer should have a responsibility to ensure that the safeguarding policy and procedures are followed and that they are updated as necessary. The church will care for children, young people and vulnerable adults and safeguard them by following good practice in relation to the following:

OUR SAFEGUARDING CONTACT POINTS

We have contacted the following in our local safeguarding contacts:

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR:

Contact details: _____

SAFEGUARDING DEACON (ELDER, TRUSTEE):

Contact details: _____

Panel

Safeguarding officer: _____

Local Church Safeguarding Policy Statement

new

- This is in line with best practice and helps you to meet charity commission and insurance company requirements
- new format - to help you to raise awareness and promote safeguarding locally.
- contains description of safeguarding roles and responsibilities in the panel and local church.
- Available in the 2022 handbook section 1 and online <https://panel.cymru/en/policies-and-information>

Home REPORT A CONCERN emergency contact numbers

Menu

- Search:
- About Us:
- Advice and Support
- Safeguarding Handbook
- Policies
- Training
- Safer Recruitment
- DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service)
- Local Church Safeguarding Coordinator
- Forms
- Safeguarding Sunday
- News
- Useful Links
- On-line safety
- Data Protection and GDPR

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook

The **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook** forms the safeguarding policy and procedures for churches from the Union of Welsh Independents, Baptist Union of Wales and the Presbyterian Church of Wales. It includes good practice guidelines on working with children and vulnerable adults and outlines what to do if you have a concern about an individual or situation.

to view or download a copy of the complete 2022 handbook please click the picture or this link - [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook](#)

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook

Also available on our website <https://panel.cymru>

or follow the links below to go directly to the individual sections:

Section 1 including Our statement of intent, and the individual church policy statement (NEW SECTION)

Section 2 Safer recruitment and selection procedures (including DBS check information and flowchart) (NEW SECTION)

Section 3 Working with Children and Young People and how to respond to concerns (DISCONTINUED)

Notices

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Contact details: _____

SAFEGUARDING DEACON (ELDER, TRUSTEE):

Contact details: _____

Panel

Safeguarding officer: _____

SAFEGUARDING in this Church

...we take it seriously

If you have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult or need safeguarding help, information or advice

Panel Dlogela Cydenwadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel
01745 817584 / 07957 510346
post@panel.cymru

Out of office hours (and weekends)
call the thirtyone eight helpline
0303 003 1111 **thirtyone eight**

Visit the Panel website for more information or use the QR code to report a concern
<https://panel.cymru>

our local SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR is:

You're not on your own!

There is lots of help, information and support available ...

Contact us

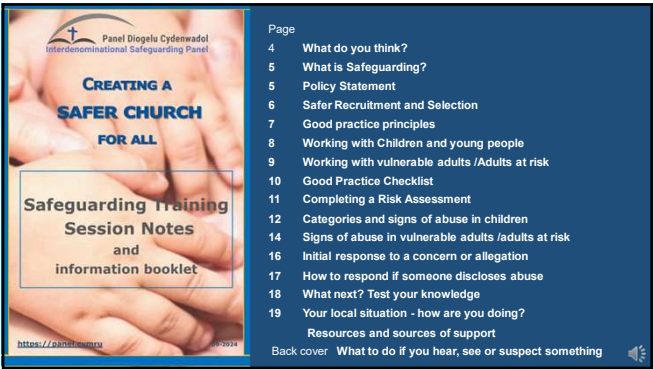
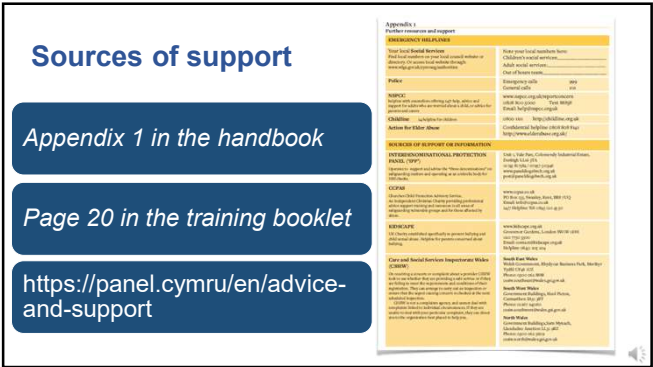
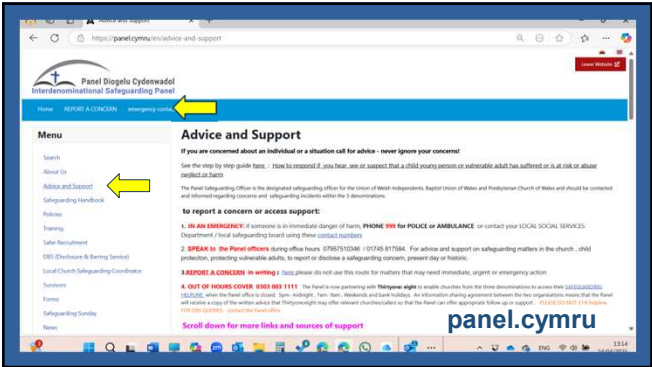
01745 817584

07957 510346

post@panel.cymru

<https://panel.cymru>

Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel



SAFER RECRUITMENT

2.1 The Safer Recruitment Process

1. APPLICATION INFORMATION FORM (AIF)

2. SELF DECLARATION FORM (PDF)

3. INTERVIEW INFORMATION SHEET

4. DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECK

5. REFERENCES FORM

6. APPROPRIATE TRAINING

Application form

More than just a DBS...

Safer Recruitment Process

1. 'Volunteer form' or Application Form

2. 'Self-Declaration Form'

3. Informal conversation about the post (for volunteers) or interview (employees)

4. 'Disclosure and Barring Service' (DBS)

5. References from two independent referees

6. Appropriate training /support

Section 2 in the Handbook and online: <https://panel.cymru/en/recruiting-volunteers>

Who needs to do a DBS check?

Lots of information to help you

CHART 1: ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS/TRUSTEES ELIGIBLE?

CHART 2: WORK WITH CHILDREN

CHART 3: WORK WITH VULNERABLE ADULTS

<https://panel.cymru/en/db>

Good Practice

GOOD PRACTICE

is key to creating a SAFE ENVIRONMENT and PREVENTING things from going wrong

CREATING A SAFER CHURCH FOR ALL

Safeguarding Training Session Notes and Information booklet

The information booklet

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook

Section 3 and 4 of the handbook

Good Practice Principles ensure that...

Section 3 and 4 of the handbook

Everyone understands local guidelines and procedures.

All are listened to and treated with dignity and respect.

Activities are carefully planned – including risk assessment

Transparency and openness is promoted where all feel free to ask for help.

Always be mindful of your own safety.

listen

children safeguarding support SAFE TEAM disclosure care PANEL visiting transparency risk assessment pastoral care regulated activity DBS good practice reference permission guidelines trust

adult

honour

team

safeguarding

children

disclosure

care

panel

visiting

transparency

risk assessment

pastoral care

regulated activity

DBS

good practice

reference

permission

guidelines

trust

support

SAFE

recruitment

youth club

respect

volunteers

Sunday School

Clear Guidelines

- Don't depend on common sense.
- Carefully plan and make sure all volunteers understand the relevant policies .
- Create your own specific guidelines using Appendix 2
- Make sure your volunteers have read and understood the code of conduct Appendix 2a

Handbook appendix 2: guidelines and safe working practices

General Guidelines for all activities

1. Wherever possible, have two or more adults present with a group. Avoid being on your own with any child. (An obvious exception will be taking a young child to the toilet.)
2. Avoid transporting a child home or away alone – preferably have another helper with you or take the two lead teachers are assigned at together. In the event of an emergency, make sure you either have a teacher or adult as a responsible.
3. Be aware in your physical contact with children. Holding a child hand or offering a hug when they are upset is a good way to reassure or comfort a child but ensure you "Show them the hug" rather than "steal the hug". All have different boundaries and these should be respected. When necessary, explain. A hug for one child or a different form of affection for some before school starts.

Guidelines and safe working practices Example document page 2

Guidelines and safe working practices

Teacher/assistant

Location: _____

Room: _____

Activity: _____

Duration: _____

Objectives: _____

Resources: _____

Procedure: _____

Notes: _____

Handbook appendix 2: guidelines and safe working practices

Appendix 2a
CODE of CONDUCT

Declaration

I have read and understood the following information and agree to abide by it. I understand that my role as a volunteer is to support the work of the organization and to follow the instructions of the staff and other volunteers. I understand that I am not an employee of the organization and that I am not entitled to any salary or wages. I understand that I am not responsible for the actions of other volunteers or staff. I understand that I am responsible for my own actions and that I will be held accountable for them. I understand that I will be expected to work for the organization for a period of time and that I will be expected to complete the tasks assigned to me. I understand that I will be expected to follow the rules and regulations of the organization and that I will be expected to maintain a high standard of conduct. I understand that I will be expected to work for the organization for a period of time and that I will be expected to complete the tasks assigned to me. I understand that I will be expected to follow the rules and regulations of the organization and that I will be expected to maintain a high standard of conduct.

I agree to abide by the responsibilities outlined above and confirm that I have read the accompanying rules and provisions that are attached to this code.

Witnessed by: _____ signed: _____
Name: _____ (signature) _____ (name and role)

Creates a record of commitment

Independent Voluntary Groups Handbook

Appendix 2a
CODE of CONDUCT

Declaration

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Creates a record of commitment

Independent Voluntary Groups Handbook

Good Practice Checklist

					
RISK ASSESSMENTS buildings and situations	PAPERWORK – photo consent, information forms etc. to help you to understand the children's needs	Enough safely recruited helpers with DBS checks where needed. Code of conduct appendix 2a	All understand their ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES	PHONE SIGNAL in case of emergency	End of session arrangements – ensure all go home safely – who is allowed to go home alone etc.

Page 11 in booklet

Try this **GROUP WORK** idea...

Look at the list of good practice principles in the booklet:. Read page 8-10

Page 9 for **CHILDRENS WORK**
 Page 10 for **VULNERABLE ADULTS**

1. Does anything stand out or hasn't occurred to you before?
or
2. Choose one that you think is particularly important and explain why.

Write your answers on Page 8



Touch


- It is an essential part of everyday life and an important way to convey affection and warmth but always needs to be:
- Age appropriate and related to the needs of the child - not the worker
- Respect different boundaries – ask
- Not behind closed doors!
- Accountable and transparent

Handbook Section 3.1 p 28
good practice when working with children

Technology

- Follow safe principles and practices when using technology or social media
- Ensure you behave transparently and accountably at all times.
- Ensure you have clear local guidance about communicating electronically with young people that all your children and youth workers have read and understood

Handbook section 3.3 Page 41-44



Photos and filming



- You should always follow your photographs and images policy.
- Do not take photos with your personal phones or for personal use
- Permission must be sought before any photos are taken and used.
- Make sure this is included on the booking form / registration form



See Handbook Section 3.3 p 38 and Appendix 8 Using and sharing images of children

Open the book

- The Open Book safeguarding policy and church safeguarding policies work together e.g. DBS
- Also need to comply with school safeguarding policy – report on concerns about children to school
- Concerns about volunteers should be reported to the Panel



<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/get-started/otb-safeguarding-information/>

Open the book

Otb team leaders should ensure that all safeguarding matters, relevant policies and procedures and the Safeguarding Code of Conduct are discussed with their teams once a year.

Training:

- i. approved Otb core training
- ii. denomination's Safeguarding training
- iii. and a session with the school's Designated Senior Person (DSP).

Concerns:

All should know how to respond to concerns

What to do if you have a safeguarding concern about:

A child

Speak to the school's DSL (England) or DSP (Wales)

Another Storyteller

Speak to the relevant Church/Denominational Safeguarding Officer and notify the Human Resources Manager at Bible Society

An adult working in the school

Speak to the school's DSL (England) or DSP (Wales)

A Bible Society employee

Speak to Bible Society's Human Resources Manager

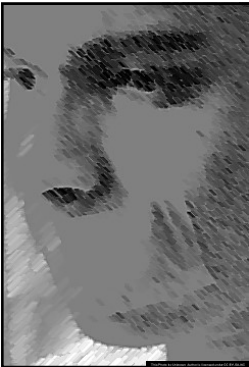
RECOGNISING ABUSE HARM & NEGLECT

WHY do we need to RECOGNISE the signs of abuse?

Children and vulnerable people are often unable, or unwilling to seek help directly



RECOGNISE




Can you think of some reasons why people don't disclose abuse?

- They may feel they are to blame /feel ashamed/ feel guilty
- Afraid of any consequences- causing trouble, making it worse
- Don't recognise it as abuse
- Perhaps unable to communicate effectively
- isolation

Barriers to disclosure

- afraid of negative reactions from parents, carers, peers and professionals
- concerned about confidentiality
- too embarrassed to talk to about a private or personal problem
- Fear they will not be taken seriously
- lack trust in the people around them or in the services provided to help them
- find formal procedures overwhelming
- Don't know/ unable to access support services available to them

(Allnock and Kiff, 2023; Mental Health Foundation and Camelot Foundation, 2006)



How a victim could feel..

- Will I be believed?
- I've tried to ignore it
- I don't want to say anything unless I'm sure I will be believed
- It's my word against a family friend, respected member of society



WHO ABUSES CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE ADULTS?

ANYONE

ON-LINE

ANYWHERE

WHERE? CAN ABUSE OR NEGLECT HAPPEN?

What is ABUSE and HARM?

It's a violation of human rights and it puts someone at risk or impacts their quality of life

It can occur once or repeatedly

HARM means abuse or the impairment of physical or mental health, or physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

RECOGNISE

ABUSE can be...

PHYSICAL - SEXUAL - EMOTIONAL or
PSYCHOLOGICAL,
FINANCIAL - INSTITUTIONAL

intentional or the result of ignorance or lack of training

someone **failing to prevent** a child or adult being harmed

RECOGNISE

Sort the definitions...

- 1. **NEGLECT**: Persistent failure to meet basic physical, emotional, educational or medical needs resulting in impairment of well-being or development.
- 2. **EMOTIONAL**: Threats, bullying, harassing, belittling, denying dignity and respect and ongoing emotional ill treatment which has a severe negative effect on a child's development.
- 3. **SEXUAL**: Forcing or enticing a child or young person to participate in sexual activity (including not contact activities) or any sexual act to which an adult has not consented.
- 4. **PHYSICAL**: Deliberately hurting or causing harm to a person's body e.g. hitting, kicking , burning shaking poisoning or other non accidental harm , misuse of medication
- 5. **FINANCIAL**: Any theft or misuse of a person's money, property or resources by a person in a position of, or expectation of, trust to a vulnerable person.
- 6. **INSTITUTIONAL**: A lack of appropriate care and support stemming from poor practice across a care provision

What is neglect ?

A child or vulnerable person depends on others for care and to meet their physical, emotional, social or psychological needs

NEGLECT is the ongoing failure to meet these needs

- They may be left hungry or dirty, without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care.
- It can have serious long-term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.
- It may or may not be deliberate
- It is the most common form of abuse



Abuse also includes...

Child Sexual Exploitation	Grooming	Bullying	Cyberbullying online abuse
Domestic Abuse	Coercive control	Spiritual Abuse	Non-recent / historical abuse
Modern Slavery and child trafficking	Radicalisation	FGM	

RECOGNISE

See appendix 9

Signs of abuse

Many of the signs that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused are similar regardless of the type of abuse.

ANYONE WORKING WITH CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE PEOPLE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Possible signs of abuse in CHILDREN



www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/spotting-signs-child-abuse/

Unexplained changes in behaviour or personality	becoming withdrawn, anxious, or depressed	knowing about 'adult issues' inappropriate for their age
Poor bond or relationship with parent or carer	Becoming uncharacteristically aggressive	concerning behaviour from adults who are caring for children
Always choosing clothes that cover their body	running away or regularly going missing from home or care	not receiving adequate medical attention after injuries.

These behaviours may have other explanations but should not be ignored.

Categories and possible signs of abuse

CHILDREN

➤ Physical

➤ Sexual

➤ Emotional

➤ Neglect

Type	Definition	Possible signs
PHYSICAL ABUSE	Physical abuse can mean hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, scalding, or other forms of causing physical injury to a child. It is also being violent to a parent or young person that child is living with. This is often described by using terms such as 'battered child' or 'parent or young person who has been physically abused'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them• Injuries to children that have not normally appeared in this type of game, etc.• Injuries that have not occurred in the past• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account
SEXUAL ABUSE	Sexual abuse means forcing or encouraging a child or young person to participate in sexual activity, whether the child is aware of what is happening or otherwise. This can mean touching the child, including penetration or contact which does not involve penetration. This can include sexual contact with a child or young person in the production of pornography or sexual activity or pornography that is in an inappropriate sexual context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any allegations made concerning sexual abuse• Emotional problems with sexual matters and sexual behaviour• Sexual abuse or sexual activity through words, play or drawing• Child who is sexually abused or involved with adults• Sexual abuse or sexual activity through words, play or drawing• Sexual abuse or sexual activity through words, play or drawing

Possible signs of abuse in VULNERABLE ADULTS

physical signs of abuse, such as bruises, wounds, and other untreated injuries

sudden changes in their normal character, such as appearing becoming quiet and withdrawn

the same injuries happening more than once

being aggressive or angry for no obvious reason

not wanting to be left on their own or with particular people

being unusually light-hearted and insisting there's nothing wrong

looking unkempt, dirty or thinner than usual

www.ageuk.org.uk/
www.warehourglass.cymru/wales

These behaviours may have other explanations but should not be ignored

Categories of abuse and possible signs

Vulnerable adults

➤ Physical

➤ Sexual

➤ Psychological

➤ Financial/ Material

➤ Neglect

➤ Institutional

Type	Definition	Possible indicators
PHYSICAL	Physical abuse can mean hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, scalding, or other forms of causing physical injury to a child. It is also being violent to a parent or young person that child is living with. This is often described by using terms such as 'battered child' or 'parent or young person who has been physically abused'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them• Injuries to children that have not normally appeared in this type of game, etc.• Injuries that have not occurred in the past• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account
SEXUAL	Sexual abuse means forcing or encouraging a child or young person to participate in sexual activity, whether the child is aware of what is happening or otherwise. This can mean touching the child, including penetration or contact which does not involve penetration. This can include sexual contact with a child or young person in the production of pornography or sexual activity or pornography that is in an inappropriate sexual context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any allegations made concerning sexual abuse• Emotional problems with sexual matters and sexual behaviour• Sexual abuse or sexual activity through words, play or drawing• Child who is sexually abused or involved with adults• Sexual abuse or sexual activity through words, play or drawing• Sexual abuse or sexual activity through words, play or drawing
PSYCHOLOGICAL	Psychological abuse can mean hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, scalding, or other forms of causing physical injury to a child. It is also being violent to a parent or young person that child is living with. This is often described by using terms such as 'battered child' or 'parent or young person who has been physically abused'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them• Injuries to children that have not normally appeared in this type of game, etc.• Injuries that have not occurred in the past• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account
FINANCIAL/MATERIAL	Financial abuse can mean hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, scalding, or other forms of causing physical injury to a child. It is also being violent to a parent or young person that child is living with. This is often described by using terms such as 'battered child' or 'parent or young person who has been physically abused'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them• Injuries to children that have not normally appeared in this type of game, etc.• Injuries that have not occurred in the past• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account
NEGLECT	Neglect can mean hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, scalding, or other forms of causing physical injury to a child. It is also being violent to a parent or young person that child is living with. This is often described by using terms such as 'battered child' or 'parent or young person who has been physically abused'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them• Injuries to children that have not normally appeared in this type of game, etc.• Injuries that have not occurred in the past• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account• Injuries to children that are not explained by the child's own account

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If you've noticed any significant

DON'T IGNORE IT!

Remember that...

Safeguarding is PREVENTATIVE as well as PROTECTIVE
we don't need to wait for abuse or neglect to occur before deciding to act.

We need to consider who may be AT RISK and act to keep them safe.

Part 7 of the Social services and wellbeing Act 2014

RESPONDING
AND
REPORTING

It can be difficult to... **REPORT**

- Sometimes our beliefs, values or some commonly held myths about abuse can mean that we are reluctant to report or respond appropriately.
- This is why we have an agreed policy and protocols that we should follow even if it sometimes conflicts with our personal views or understanding of a situation.

Many allegations of abuse are false

Abuse doesn't happen here

I know the person being accused and they would never hurt anyone

We should just forgive and move on



If you **HEAR, SEE or SUSPECT** that a **CHILD or VULNERABLE ADULT** has suffered, or is at risk of suffering **ABUSE, NEGLECT or HARM**

**Make a careful note of what you have been told or what you have seen or suspect**

**If someone is in IMMEDIATE DANGER:**
Contact the police or social services duty team without delay

**For all other concerns: SEEK ADVICE**

**Panel safeguarding officer**
07957510346
Out of hours contact **Thirtyone: eight**
0303 003 1111

**Or visit our website for more sources of support**
<https://panel.cymru/en/advice-and-support>

**If in doubt — call to get advice**
Don't assume that someone else will take action or that the situation is not serious enough to act.
It's not up to you or the church to decide whether abuse has occurred

**In each case let the Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel know about the situation and the actions you have taken**

HOW TO RESPOND TO A CONCERN

MAKE NOTES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
write down what you have seen, been told or suspect.
Use exact words – what was said, when, and a description of any activity.

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in your booklet

IS SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER?

YES

Contact Emergency Services
Call 999 – ambulance, police or contact Social Services immediately.

NO

Get advice: contacts at the back of the booklet
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel (01745 817584)
Or your local social services department
The following offer independent advice, have a website and a confidential helpline service:
31:8 (0303 003 1111); NSPCC (0800 8005000)
Hourglass (0800 808 8141)

NEW OUT-OF-HOURS SERVICE

0303 003 1111

**thirtyone:eight**
Creating safer places. Together.

**After 5pm and until midnight, 7am to 9am**

**Weekends, bank holidays**

**Starting in March 2024**

**Details on our website**

If you **HEAR, SEE or SUSPECT** that a **CHILD, YOUNG PERSON or VULNERABLE ADULT** has suffered, or is at risk of **ABUSE, NEGLECT or HARM**

**MAKE A CAREFUL NOTE** of what you have been told or what you have seen or suspect

**If someone is in IMMEDIATE DANGER:**
contact the police, ambulance, or social services duty team without delay

**FOR ALL OTHER CONCERNS: SEEK ADVICE**

**PANEL SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: 07957510346**
For out of office hours advice call the **THIRTYONE:EIGHT** HELPLINE: 0303 003 1111

**Or visit our website for more sources of support**
<https://panel.cymru/en/advice-and-support>

**If in doubt — CALL TO GET ADVICE**
Don't assume that someone else will take action or it's not serious enough to take action.
It's not up to you or the church to decide if abuse has taken place

**In all cases let the Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel** know about the situation and actions you have taken

If you are concerned about an individual or a situation, **call for advice**

During office hours (9-5) please contact the Panel officers
01745 817584 / 07957 510346
post@panel.cymru <https://panel.cymru>

**Panel Diogelu Cydenwadol**
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

Outside of office hours for urgent advice call:
0303 003 1111

**thirtyone:eight**
Creating safer places. Together.

The Panel now has an out of office support agreement with thirtyone:eight covering evenings, weekends and bank holidays. Please contact their safeguarding helpline for advice relating to Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel. Please do not contact thirtyone: eight with any ORO queries.

This card was created for urgent safeguarding concerns

SAFEGUARDING in this Church

...we take it seriously

If you have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult or need safeguarding help, information or advice

**Panel Diogelu Cydenwadol**
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel
01745 817584 / 07957 510346
post@panel.cymru

**Out of office hours (and weekends)**
call the **thirtyone: eight** helpline
0303 003 1111 **thirtyone: eight**
Creating safer places. Together.

**IN AN EMERGENCY - CALL 999**

**Visit the Panel website for more information**
or use the QR code to report a concern
<https://panel.cymru>



our local SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR is:

There is always help and advice available

During Office hours

Out of Office hours/ weekends / Bank holidays

Report a concern in writing

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DURING OFFICE HOURS
Safeguarding Officer:
07957510346 Julie
Or the Panel Office:
01745 817584 Sian

OUT OF HOURS
Thirtyone:eight
Helpline for safeguarding
advice and support

0303 003 1111

DO NOT

- promise to keep any abuse a secret
- question the individual.
- express shock or disbelief.
- discuss the matter with the person accused or suspected of the crime.
- investigate any of the allegations or disclosures yourself.



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in your booklet

IF SOMEONE REVEALS ABUSE TO YOU.

Please be patient and show understanding

Listen carefully

Show acceptance of what they say by repeating short words or phrases

You should reassure the person that they are doing the right thing by disclosing

If they are in serious danger, contact the Police or Social Services immediately

Make detailed notes as soon as possible.



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Helpful or unhelpful response?

1. Thank you for telling me ✓	2. I promise I won't tell anyone else ✗	3 Take your time, ✓	4. You were right to tell me about this ✓
5. It wasn't your fault ✓	6. I can't believe that – you must be mistake ✗	7. They must have thought it was what you wanted ✗	8. Is there anyone you'd like me to call? ✓
9. As Christians we should forgive and forget ✗	10. (name) is our safeguarding lead they can help us ✓	11. Don't say another word! I'm not the right person to talk to ✗	12. I'll have a word – I'm sure we can make this go away ✗

Dewi (12)

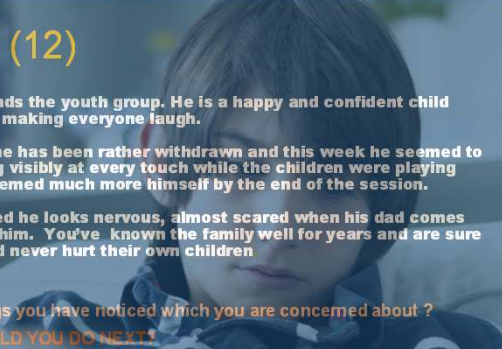
Dewi attends the youth group. He is a happy and confident child who loves making everyone laugh.

Recently he has been rather withdrawn and this week he seemed to be wincing visibly at every touch while the children were playing tag. He seemed much more himself by the end of the session.

You noticed he looks nervous, almost scared when his dad comes to collect him. You've known the family well for years and are sure they would never hurt their own children

List the things you have noticed which you are concerned about ?

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?



MARGARET

List the things you are concerned about ?

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

You visit Margaret, an elderly church member and neighbour every week . Her husband died last year and she's not very mobile and is quite forgetful. You do some shopping and keep her company.

Her daughter also visits weekly and takes care of her finances etc. You often hear shouting when her daughter calls.

Recently you notice that the post is unopened and that there is no money to pay for the shopping. Margaret also seems much less chatty.

You asked her if everything is alright and she says she's doesn't want to be a nuisance and her daughter works very hard.



RESPOND

<https://safeguarding.wales/en/chi-i/chi-i-c2/c2-p4>

[illegible]

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Think the unthinkable

Never be worried to ask for help

Panel Diogelwch Cydunedig
Interdenominational Independent Panel

Safeguarding Sunday

16th November 2025

<https://panel.cymru/en/safeguarding-sunday>

<https://panel.cymru/en/safeguarding-Sunday>
<https://safeguardingsunday.org>

Remember
we're here to
help...

post@panel.cymru



<https://s.zoom.us/j/9125271111>