



Creating a SAFER CHURCH for all

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
Level 1

1/2026

Learning objectives

By the end of this session, you should know more about ...

-  Your church safeguarding policy and guidelines
-  Where to find more information and support
-  Safer recruitment and good practice principles
-  The signs and indicators of abuse and neglect
-  How to respond to concerns

Look after yourself

Images or memories that upset you

Take a break

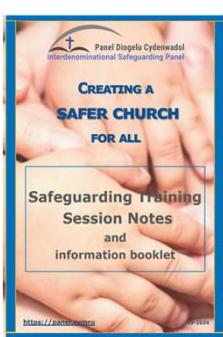
Advice and support
<https://panel.cymru/en/advice-and-support>

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.

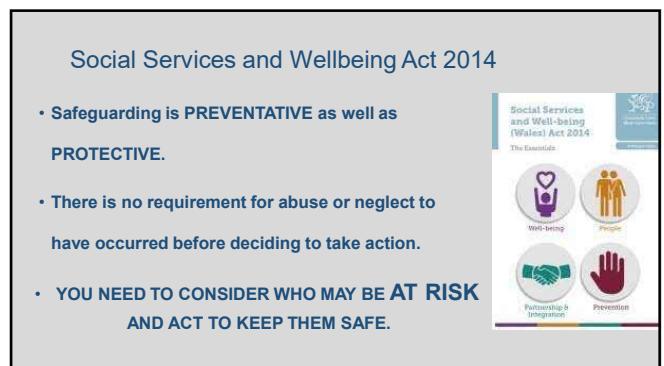
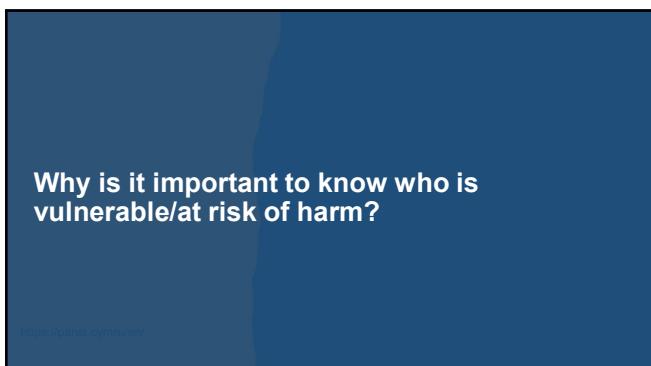
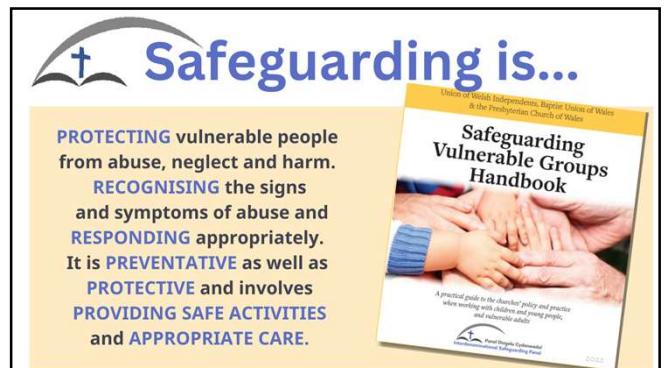
Who are we?

What does a SAFER CHURCH look like?

What does a **SAFER CHURCH** look like?

5
Key Safeguarding Principles






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)



An Adult at risk
is someone (18 years or over) who:

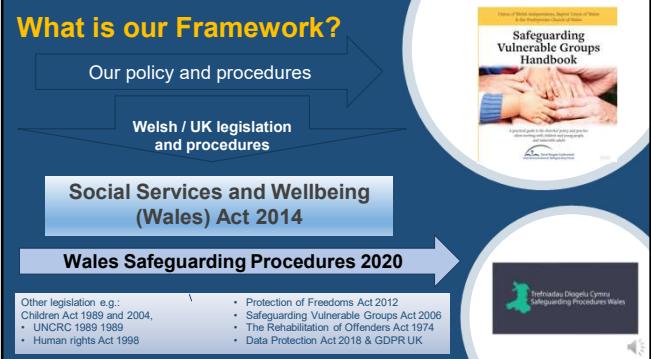
- is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect and
- has care and support needs (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect or the risk of it

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

How would you define VULNERABLE?

UNABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

What is our Framework?



Our policy and procedures

Welsh / UK legislation and procedures

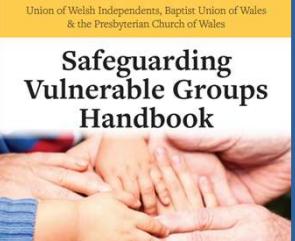
Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

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 Diogla Cyhoeddol Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

Our policy and procedures:

PROTECTING

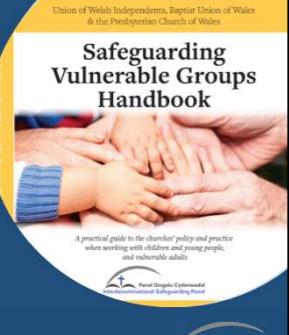
- Understanding the signs and symptoms
- Know how to respond
- Know where to turn for support

PROVIDING SAFE ACTIVITIES & PREVENTING HARM

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

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

In the Handbook...



Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook

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

Panel Diogla Cyhoeddol Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

1. Introduction

2. Safer Recruitment and Selection

3. Children and Young People

4. Vulnerable Adults

5. Pastoral Care

6. Appendices

7. Forms

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

<h3>Our Safeguarding Policy Statement</h3>	
<p>As leaders and trustees of the church we are fully committed to the safety of our members and the community. This safeguarding policy statement aligns with the guidance and procedures outlined in the handbook section 1.</p> <p>We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victim of abuse and neglect. We are committed to ensuring that all our members are safe from abuse and neglect. We will not tolerate a culture of denial or cover up. We will not discriminate against anyone because of the name of the church. We are responsible for creating environments to support sensible and appropriate behaviour. We will not tolerate behaviour that is inappropriate, disrespectful, or abusive. We will not tolerate behaviour that is discriminatory, or that shows a lack of respect to others, promote the ethos of learning to children and sensible people and encourage them to be safe from abuse and neglect.</p> <p>The church will care for children, young people and vulnerable adults and safeguard them by following the principles of the handbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding appropriately to concern and allegation (Handbook Section 3.4) • Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults (Handbook Section 3.5) • Safeguarding adults (Handbook Section 3.6) • Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults (Handbook Section 3.7) which is a response of abuse or other concern or obligations we have to our members, visitors, or the community to ensure they are safe from abuse and neglect. It also includes the safeguarding of adults in the workplace. • Protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable people • Preventing the making of false allegations (Handbook Section 4.1 to 4.6) 	
<p>Our responsibility</p> <p>We acknowledge that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we should report any concerns or allegations of abuse or neglect to the appropriate person. We will not tolerate or condone any behaviour that is discriminatory. This safeguarding policy statement is not a substitute for the relevant legislation. It is a summary of the church's safeguarding policy. It is not a legal document. They will work with the Diocese of Llandaff on developing safeguarding policy.</p>	
<p>OUR SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DETAILS</p> <p>For any safeguarding concerns or to make safeguarding contacts: _____ (Name)</p> <p>SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR: _____ (Name)</p> <p>Contact details: _____ (Name)</p> <p>SAFEGUARDING DELEGATE /ELDER / TRUSTEE: _____ (Name)</p> <p>Details: _____ (Name)</p> <p>International safeguarding officer: _____ (International Safeguarding Lead) _____ (Name)</p>	

Home REPORT A CONCERN emergency contact numbers [Learn Website](#)

Menu

Search:

About Us:

Advice and Support

Safeguarding Handbook 

Policies

Training

Safeguarding

Safe Recruitment

DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service)

Local Church Safeguarding Coordinator

Survivors

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.

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



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

Section 1 including **Our approach to safeguarding** and the **Indications of abuse checklist** (NEW SECTION)

Section 2 including **Working with adults** and the **Indications of abuse checklist** (NEW SECTION)

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

Also available on our website

<https://panel.cymru>

The image shows a church notice board with a blue header and a white brick background. The board is titled 'Notices' in large blue letters. Below the title, there are two main informational posters.

Safeguarding Policy Statement:

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 Cydwadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel
01745 817584 / 07957 510346
www.safeguardinginthischurch.co.uk

Out of office hours (and weekends)
call the thirtyone eight helpline
0303 003 1111 thirtyone-eight.co.uk

IN AN EMERGENCY : CALL 999

Visit the Panel website for more information or use the quick code to report a concern
<https://panklymu>

our local SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR : [REDACTED]

You're not
on
your own!

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

A graphic featuring four circular icons on a white background. Top-left: a computer mouse inside a blue circle. Top-right: an envelope with an '@' symbol inside a blue circle. Bottom-left: a mobile phone inside a blue circle. Bottom-right: a telephone handset inside a blue circle. To the left of the icons, the text 'Contact us' is written in yellow, followed by four lines of contact information: '01745 817584', '07957 510346', 'post@panel.cymru', and 'https://panel.cymru'. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel' featuring a stylized cross and the text 'Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel'.



Home REPORT A CONCERN emergency contact

Advice and Support

If you are concerned about an individual or a situation call for advice - never ignore your concern!

See our step by step guide [here](#). How to respond if you hear, see or suspect that a child, young person or vulnerable adult has suffered or is at risk or abuse against, or harm.

The Panel Safeguarding Office is the designated safeguarding office for the Union of Welsh Independents, Baptist Union of Wales and Presbyterian Church of Wales and should be contacted immediately if you have concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult. See the [denominations](#).

to report a concern or access support:

- 1. IN AN EMERGENCY** - if you are in immediate danger of harm, **PHONE 999 FOR POLICE OR AMBULANCE** or contact your LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES Department or local safeguarding board using their contact numbers.
- 2 SPEAK TO THE Panel** officers during office hours 07975013048 | (0745) 811584. For advice and support on safeguarding matters in the church - child protection, protecting vulnerable adults, to report or discuss a safeguarding concern, present day or historic.
- 3 REPORT A CONCERN in writing** - [click](#) below and let us make for matters that may need immediate, urgent or emergency action

4. OUT OF HOURS COVER 0903 003 1111 The Panel has a partnership with [Thrymonia night](#) to enable churches to have the three denominations to access free confidential advice and support out of hours. If you have a concern about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please contact the [Thrymonia night](#) helpline and we will copy a copy of the written advice that [Thrymonia night](#) may offer relevant organisations so that the Panel can follow up if required. [PLEASE 0903 003 1111 helpline](#)

Scroll down for more links and sources of support

panel.cymru



The image shows a presentation slide with the following content:

Panel Diogela Cydenwadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

**CREATING A
SAFER CHURCH
FOR ALL**

**Safeguarding Training
Session Notes
and
information booklet**

Page

4 **What do you think?**

5 **What is Safeguarding?**

5 **Policy Statement**

6 **Safer Recruitment and Selection**

7 **Good practice principles**

8 **Working with Children and young people**

9 **Working with vulnerable adults /Adults at risk**

10 **Good Practice Checklist**

11 **Completing a Risk Assessment**

12 **Categories and signs of abuse in children**

14 **Signs of abuse in vulnerable adults /adults at risk**

16 **Initial response to a concern or allegation**

17 **How to respond if someone discloses abuse**

18 **What next? Test your knowledge**

19 **Your local situation - how are you doing?**

Resources and sources of support

Back cover What to do if you hear, see or suspect something

<https://panelcyd.wuolah.com>

So far, we've looked at our safeguarding policy and some definitions...

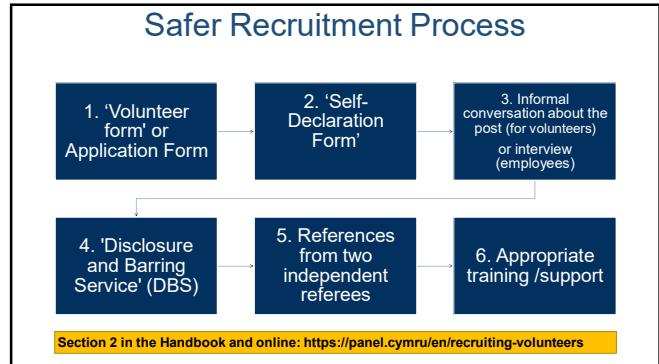
the rest of our time together we will look at...

- **Safer recruitment**
- **Good practice**
- **Recognising abuse**
- **Responding to concerns**

Safer recruitment

SAFER RECRUITMENT

More than just a DBS...



Who needs to do a DBS check?

Lots of information to help you

This leaflet contains examples and flowcharts to help you to work out if anyone in your church needs to do a DBS check and at what level.

CHART 1: ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS / TRUSTEES ELIGIBLE?

Does this church have organised activities with children or vulnerable adults? (See the HCW page)

YES → There is NO legally binding obligation to do a DBS check. Even though vulnerable adults are not the main purpose of the church, if the church has organised activities with children or vulnerable adults, then the church has a legal duty to do a DBS check.

NO → CHURCH TRUSTEES will be eligible if the activity involves working with children or vulnerable adults.

CHURCH TRUSTEES will be eligible if the activity involves working with children or vulnerable adults.

PLEASE REMEMBER that one in your church might be eligible for a DBS check. If this is the case, then you must complete a DBS check. Please refer to the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for more information.

CHART 2: WORK with CHILDREN

Do you work **REGULARLY** with children or as a member of the church? If you do, then you must do a DBS check.

YES → If you work in their home or in their care, or if you are a member of the church, then you must do a DBS check.

NO → If you work in a church hall, or if you are a member of the church, then you do not need to do a DBS check.

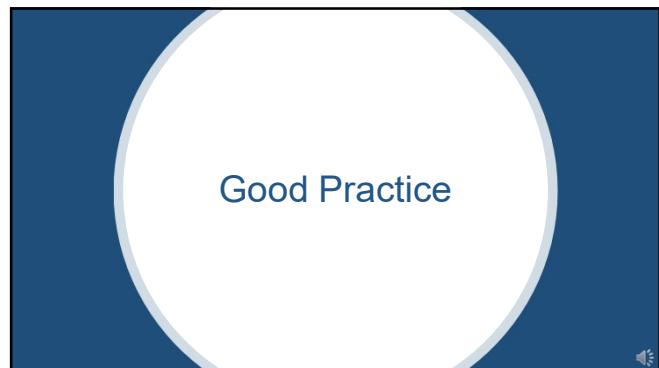
CHART 3: WORK with VULNERABLE ADULTS

Do you work **REGULARLY** with vulnerable adults? If you do, then you must do a DBS check.

YES → If you work in their home or in their care, or if you are a member of the church, then you must do a DBS check.

NO → If you work in a church hall, or if you are a member of the church, then you do not need to do a DBS check.

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



GOOD PRACTICE

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

The information booklet

Section 3 and 4 of the handbook



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 practice

Guidelines and Safe Working Practices

This is an example of minimum guidance which should always be read in conjunction with the relevant safeguarding policies and procedures. This document is not a substitute for the relevant policies and procedures. It is a summary of the key principles and good practice which should be followed when working with children and young people.

General Guidelines for all activities

1. Whenever possible, have two or more adults involved with a group. Avoid being on your own with one child (or obvious vulnerable young person). If you are working with a child or young person, always let another adult know where you are and what you are doing. If you are working with a group, let another adult know where you are and what you are doing.
2. Avoid transporting a child home on your own – preferably have another helper with you or use another vehicle. If you must transport a child home on your own, let another adult know where you are and what you are doing as soon as is possible.
3. Be wise in your physical contact with children. Holding a child's hand or offering a hug when they are distressed is a natural response. However, if a child asks for a hug, ask 'Would you like a hug?' rather than assume 'We all have different boundaries and these should be respected.'
4. Make sure your boundaries are clear. If you are a leader, ask a child 'Would you like a hug?' rather than assume 'We all have different boundaries and these should be respected.'

Guidelines and Safe working practices - Example document

Section about

Code of conduct

Handbook appendix 2 : guidelines and safe practice

Appendix 2a CODE of CONDUCT

Helps a volunteer to understand their safeguarding role and responsibilities

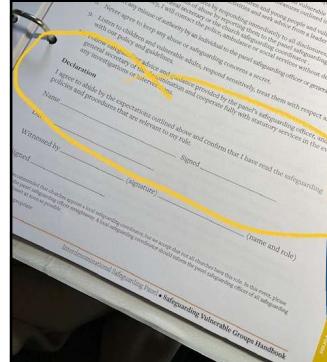
States what an individual should do if they have a concern

Creates a record of commitment



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
Page 11 in booklet				



Try this GROUP WORK idea...

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

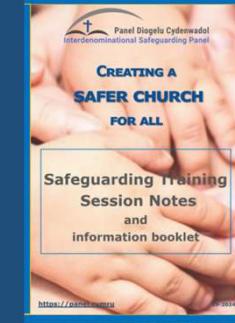
Page 9 for CHILDRENS WORK

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



Handbook section 3.3 Page 41-44

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



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**

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/>



MYTHS ABOUT ABUSE

Are the following statements
TRUE or FALSE



Myths about abuse

1. Abuse is usually carried out by someone known to the victim **TRUE**
2. The most common type of abuse is physical **FALSE**
3. If a vulnerable adult does not tell someone about the abuse taking place, it cannot be serious. **FALSE**
4. Children often lie about abuse **FALSE**
5. If social services become involved, children are usually removed from their homes **FALSE**

RECOGNISE

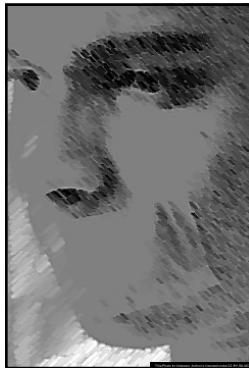
RECOGNISING ABUSE HARM & NEGLECT

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?

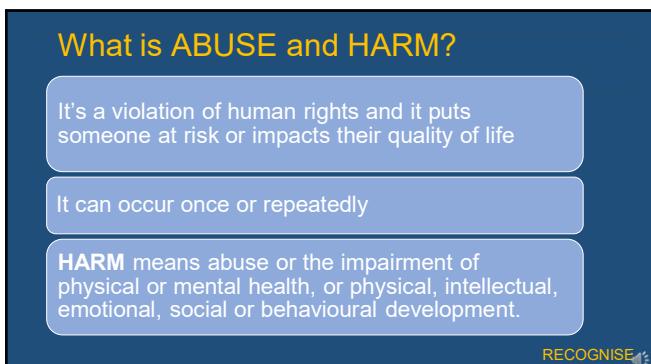
- They may feel they are to blame /feel ashamed/ feel guilty
- Afraid of any consequences- causing trouble, making it worse
- Don't recognise it as abuse
- Perhaps unable to communicate effectively
- isolation

Barriers to disclosure

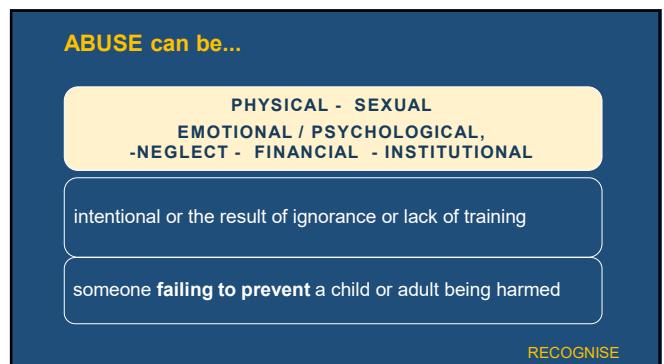
- afraid of negative reactions from parents, carers, peers and professionals
- concerned about confidentiality
- too embarrassed to talk to about a private or personal problem
- Fear they will not be taken seriously
- lack trust in the people around them or in the services provided to help them
- find 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)



RECOGNISE



RECOGNISE

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...



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 involve hitting, shaking, throwing, choking with fire or water, drowning, kicking or pinching, or otherwise injury to a child. It can also include situations where a parent or carer protects their child. It includes situations where a child is immediately caused a child to become ill. This can include situations such as 'whiplash' from being hit by a parent or 'Munchausen syndrome by proxy'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Injuries or consistent with the history given for them ➢ Injuries are placed on the body not normally exposed to falls, high impact or other injuries ➢ Injuries that have not resulted from an accident ➢ Refusal to change, or reluctance to go to or remain in places or situations that are associated with abuse ➢ Injuries that are consistent with an adult's knowledge of child abuse ➢ Bruises on the face, back, bottom, or genitalia, which may have an accelerated regeneration ➢ Changes in behaviour or diet
SEXUAL ABUSE	Sexual abuse means forcing or encouraging a child or young person to participate in sexual activity, or the child is aware of what is happening to them and is forced to take part in it, including pressuring the child to watch sexual activity or activity which does not involve participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Any of those made concerning sexual abuse ➢ Any of those made concerning sexual abuse ➢ Any of those made concerning sexual abuse ➢ Age-inappropriate sexual activity ➢ Child who is sexually promiscuous ➢ Child who is sexually active before or with adults ➢ Child who is sexually active in inappropriate arrangements at home ➢ Injuries similar to those seen with child abuse or neglect ➢ Eating disorders - anorexia, bulimia*

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.wearehourglass.cymru/wales	
These behaviours may have other explanations but should not be ignored		



If you've noticed any significant

CHANGE

DON'T IGNORE IT!

A blue umbrella is positioned diagonally across the slide, covering the text on the left and pointing towards the text on the right. The handle of the umbrella is on the bottom right.

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

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

Abuse doesn't happen here

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

Advice
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.

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 (0808 8005000)
Hourglass (0808 808 8141)

Page 16
in your booklet

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

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

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

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

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

999
FOR ALL OTHER CONCERN
SEEK ADVICE

Panel Safeguarding Officer: 07957510346
Out of 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 act.
It's not up to you or the church to decide whether abuse has taken place

Advice
In each case let the Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel office know about the situation and action 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


Creating safer places. Together.

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

*Do not call 999 for urgent safeguarding concerns.

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.

Page 17 in your booklet



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.

Page 17 in your booklet



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	12. I'll have a word - I'm sure we can make this go away

Dewi (12)

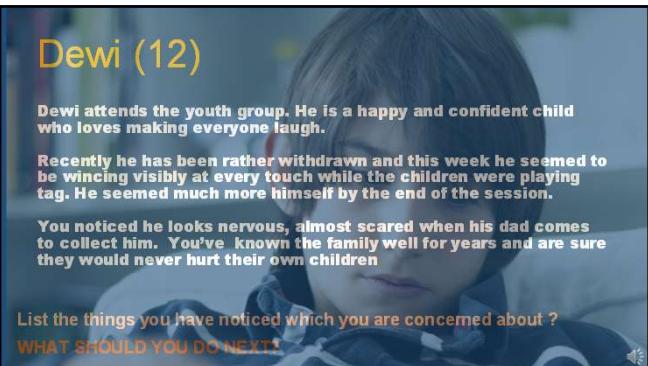
Dewi attends the youth group. He is a happy and confident child who loves making everyone laugh.

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.

Reporting

It's not up to you or the church to decide if the abuse has occurred or not.

Your responsibility is to report the concern to the appropriate person

RESPOND



DUTY TO REPORT CONCERNs

Look after yourself

IF YOU HAVE SEEN, SUSPECT OR REPORTED ABUSE, SEEK SUPPORT FOR YOURSELF TOO.

IT'S NEVER AN EASY THING TO REPORT ABUSE.

YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR OWN

THE PANEL OFFICERS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

ADVICE AND SUPPORT

[HTTPS://PANEL.CYMRU/EN/ADVICE-AND-SUPPORT](https://panel.cymru/en/advice-and-support)

What next...?

The training session is over – but safeguarding carries on.

- Have you worked through the questions and activities in this session?
- Test your knowledge by considering the following questions and activities.
- During the Children's节 is a key time for children to be left. How would you ensure that the child is safe and supervised? What would you do if you were asked to leave the room? What would you do if you were asked to leave the building?
- How well is your church safeguarding vulnerable groups?

Churches already have a key role in safeguarding, but...
SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

The Safer Church – and assessment of this Best Practice

Definition: The Safer Church is the process of your church safeguarding policies and procedures and the way in which these are implemented. It is a process of continuous improvement.

Principles: There are 4 safeguarding principles that every church should follow:

- Everyone has a right to be safe.
- Everyone has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everyone has the right to be treated fairly and with dignity.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse.

Practices: There are 10 safeguarding practices that every church should follow:

- Everyone has the right to be safe.
- Everyone has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everyone has the right to be treated fairly and with dignity.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from neglect.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from discrimination.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from exploitation.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from violence.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from neglect.

Resources: There are 10 safeguarding resources that every church should have:

- Everyone has the right to be safe.
- Everyone has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everyone has the right to be treated fairly and with dignity.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from neglect.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from discrimination.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from exploitation.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from violence.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from neglect.

Feedback: There are 10 safeguarding feedback mechanisms that every church should have:

- Everyone has the right to be safe.
- Everyone has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everyone has the right to be treated fairly and with dignity.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from neglect.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from discrimination.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from exploitation.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from violence.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse.
- Everyone has the right to be safe from neglect.

social care wales

e-learning

45mins

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



3 key takeaways



Panel Diogesia Cydweadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Think the unthinkable

Never be worried to ask for help

The logo for Safeguarding Sunday 2025. It features the words 'SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY' in large, white, serif capital letters on a pink-to-blue gradient background. Below this, the year '2025' is displayed in a white, bold, sans-serif font inside a dark blue rectangular box. To the right of the logo, a blue horizontal bar contains the text '16th November 2025' in white.