

## Guidance for the Designated Persons for Safeguarding in Baptist Churches. Changes to the BUGB Model Safeguarding Policy and Procedures – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

As of April 2023, we have completed our latest review of the Model Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Although most of the best practice guidance included in this document remains relevant there are a few key points which have been updated to make them clearer or reflect recent legislative changes. These changes are outlined below:

### Section 2.1.2 Responding to Concerns

The detailed explanation on the stages of responding to concerns has been updated to reflect the messages in the Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding Training about who should be recording concerns and they should be responded to.

### Section 2.1.4 (Children) 2.1.5 (Adults) Abuse of Trust

An additional paragraph has been included here which summarises the definition of who is in a position of trust as set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and what this means for churches.

### Section 2.2 Safer Recruitment – Young Helpers

This paragraph has been amended so that instead of referring to “young leaders” it now refers to “young helpers”. This is to reflect the position that young people who volunteer with other groups in the church should not be expected to have responsibility for other children.

### Section 2.3 Safer Behaviour – Group Leader considerations

Additional wording included to clarify the position relating to a couple or immediate family members working together with children and young people.

### Section 3.1.5 Mentoring

Additional wording highlighting the importance of keeping a written record of all communication between a mentor and young person.

### Section 3.1.8 Digital Communication with Young People

Additional wording to highlight the importance of a worker’s role description setting out expectations about how they communicate with young people and how this will be monitored.

Additional paragraph setting out expectations with regard to the use of instant messaging in communication with children and young people.

Additional paragraph included on Page 19 about safeguarding considerations whilst live-streaming services and events involving children and young people.

### Section 3.2.7 Live Streaming Services

This is a new section setting out the requirement for people attending a church service or event to be made aware that a service is being recorded or livestreamed and, in some cases, explicit consent sought from individuals who have a role in the service.

### Section 3.3.1 Consent Forms

Additional paragraph setting out the requirement for consent to be sought when livestreaming services.

### 3.3.4 First Aid

This paragraph has been amended to streamline information about first aid kits and remove reference to having one first aid kit for adults and one for children.

### Section 3.3.10 Outings and Events involving Children.

Additional paragraph added under Sleeping Arrangements to include consideration of the needs of children and young people who may be questioning their gender identity or considering, progressing or completed gender reassignment.

Additional paragraph on Page 25 highlighting the importance of having a named person for safeguarding on outings and residential trips. (This is replicated in Section 3.3.11 with regard to adults at risk)

### Section 3.4.1 Bullying

Additional paragraph about bullying online and on social media and setting out the expectations that online bullying is treated as seriously as face-to-face bullying.

### Section 3.4.2 Working with Alleged and Known Offenders

This section has been reviewed and updated throughout to reflect the importance of completing a thorough risk assessment and seeking support from the Regional Safeguarding Lead in doing so.

### Appendix 1 Definitions of Abuse

The definition of Domestic Abuse has been amended to reflect the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as well as including coercion and control within the description.

The Definition of Online Abuse has been updated to include reference to the Online Safety Bill 2021.

Additional terms Cuckooing, Peer-on-Peer abuse and Child-on-Child abuse have been included in the list of types of abuse with an explanation of what they are.

### Appendix 3 Incident Form

The Incident Form has been replaced with a new simpler version and the Body Map removed.

## **Additional Amendments (Sue Lindridge – Designated person for Safeguarding)**

### **Section 2.3 Safer Behaviour – Group Leader considerations**

Additional wording to reflect the role of parent or other helpers in groups of children, young people or adults at risk.

### **Section 2.1.6 Pastoral Care**

Additional wording to acknowledge those who are courageous in sharing their experiences and encouraging others who have information relevant to any investigation to come forward. An assurance that they will be taken seriously and listened to.