

Southern Marches Quaker Area Meeting Safeguarding Guidelines

A copy of these guidelines will be given to all members and attenders prior to working with children and young people or vulnerable adults at LM and AM.

We all have a duty to protect and care for any child, young person or vulnerable adult.

There are five categories of abuse of a child, young person or vulnerable adult

- Physical abuse: hitting; shaking; biting; inappropriate medical treatment
- Sexual abuse, including grooming
- Emotional/psychological abuse
- Financial and discriminatory abuse
- Neglect: starving; withholding medical care; withholding education; inadequate shelter.

If you have any concerns about

- the safety or well being of a child, young person or vulnerable adult
- the behaviour of an adult towards a child, young person or vulnerable adult

CONTACT THE AM SAFEGUARDING OFFICER IMMEDIATELY. Do not discuss this with anyone else in meeting, outside meeting or the child, young person or vulnerable adult's family.

If a child, young person or vulnerable adult tells you that someone has hurt them physically, sexually or emotionally, or reports clear neglect to you...

- DO listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- DO accept what is being said and allow the child, young person or vulnerable adult to talk freely
- DO reassure the child, young person or vulnerable adult, but do not make promises that it might not be possible to keep such as 'it'll be alright now'
- DO reassure him or her that it is not their fault
- DO listen rather than ask direct questions, other than to be sure of what the child, young person or vulnerable adult is saying
- DO make a written record as soon as possible, sticking to the facts, making no judgements then sign and date it
- DO pass information to the AM Safeguarding Officer
- DO NOT promise confidentiality – it may be necessary to refer to the AM Safeguarding Officer, Children's Services or the Police
- DO NOT criticise the alleged perpetrator

If you suspect the child, young person or vulnerable adult is in immediate and likely danger of harm, contact Social Services or the Police directly. Do not wait to discuss this with anyone else.

- If you see an adult behaving inappropriately towards a child, young person or vulnerable adult, ensure the safety of the child, young person or vulnerable adult
- Contact the AM Safeguarding Officer immediately
- If they cannot be contacted inform the police.

Remember, you may only have one part of the jigsaw. Make no judgement and pass on what you have seen or been told to the AM Safeguarding Officer or the authorities.

AM Safeguarding Officer: Linda Murray-Hale 077799 58671

AM Safeguarding Trustee: Linda Green 01873 857489

Herefordshire Safeguarding Hub 01432 260800

Powys Safeguarding Board 01597 827666

Monmouthshire Children Services 01291 635669; emergencies 0800 328 4432

Shropshire Safeguarding Board 0345 678 9021

Childline 0800 1111

Police 999 emergency (101 non-emergency - text phone is available on 18001 101)

Revised January 2019