

Brighouse West Yorkshire Area Meeting (Quakers)

SAFEGUARDING POLICY (updated)

Date Policy Agreed by Area Meeting Trustees: 13/08/17 **relevant minute:** 17.08.21

Date Adopted by Area Meeting in Session: 14/05/17 **relevant minute:** 17/05/17

Date for Review of Policy by Trustees: September 2018

1. Introduction Brighouse West Yorkshire Area Meeting (BWYAM) recognises that children, young people and vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We have a responsibility to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults under the auspices of our Quaker Meetings and activities. We have a responsibility to take action to protect individuals who are at risk of, or who are suffering, abuse or neglect. We are also committed to providing support to those affected by accusations of abuse, including proven or alleged victims, proven or alleged abusers and those affected at second hand. We will:
 - Value, listen to and respect children, young people and vulnerable adults, and promote their well being, welfare and protection.
 - Help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults and report any such abuse that is discovered or suspected
 - Adopt safe recruitment practices, and provide supervision and training for people working with children, young people or vulnerable adults as part of our meeting
 - Maintain membership of the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)
 - Follow agreed procedures for dealing with concerns about possible abuse and ensure each Meeting is aware of these procedures
 - Encourage and support each meeting in safeguarding
 - Encourage and support parents/ carers on safeguarding issues
 - Support those affected by abuse
 - Maintain good links with the statutory services and other organisations
 - Supervise and, where appropriate, offer pastoral care to known or suspected offenders

2. Safeguarding Co-ordinator Area Meeting will appoint a Safeguarding Co-ordinator whose role is to:
 - a. act as an advocate for children and vulnerable adults within BWYAM
 - b. act independently in reporting concerns of abuse to the statutory authorities (though the role is not to investigate such concerns)
 - c. oversee the implementation of our safeguarding policy and procedures for children and vulnerable adults and work with trustees to ensure that these are regularly reviewed
 - d. be BWYAM's named contact with CCPAS

Meetings where there is a Children's Meeting Where the Local Meeting runs a regular Children's Meeting (at present Hebden Bridge, Huddersfield and Bradford), or runs

children's activities, it will appoint volunteers to support these and ensure that they have obtained a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. When Friends offer to work with the children in their Local Meeting, Trustees and verifiers (usually Local Meeting clerks) may accept an original and existing clean Enhanced DBS obtained in another context, provided it is within 36 months old. A copy should be taken by the verifier and kept in secure files; when that DBS expires, a new one should be applied for via the usual system.'

3. All children's meetings/activities will be supported by a minimum of two adults at least one of whom must already have a satisfactory DBS check.
4. All Meetings Everyone has a responsibility to respect and protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. Each of our constituent Local Meetings will identify a lead contact person in relation to safeguarding who should be notified of any concerns. This local safeguarding lead will not attempt to investigate any allegations but will follow guidance provided and contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator as soon as possible.
5. Area Meeting Trustees Have responsibility for ensuring that suitable policies and procedures are in place concerning safeguarding, and (in conjunction with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator) to provide written guidance to Local Meetings derived from CCPAS and from Britain Yearly Meeting.

Summary of Actions and Responsibilities regarding Safeguarding

Area Meeting will:

- approve and periodically review policy
- appoint an Area Meeting Safeguarding Co-ordinator
- maintain membership of the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)

The Safeguarding Co-ordinator will:

- act as an advocate for children and vulnerable adults within BWYAM
- act independently in reporting concerns of abuse to the statutory authorities (though the role is not to investigate such concerns)
- oversee the implementation of our safeguarding policy and procedures for children and vulnerable adults and work with trustees to ensure that these are regularly reviewed
- be BWYAM's named contact with CCPAS

Trustees:

- Hold overall legal responsibility for ensuring safeguarding issues are properly considered and addressed within our Area Meeting
- Will arrange for good practice guidance to be available to local meetings, including procedures for reporting suspected abuse

Local Meetings will:

- identify an individual (or individuals) to act as safeguarding lead contact person.
- use safe practices for appointing volunteers to supervise Children's Meeting/activities, including ensuring that DBS checks are undertaken.

END