

Christian Dental Fellowship Safeguarding policy

We are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. CDF accepts and recognises our responsibilities to develop an awareness of the issues which may cause children and vulnerable adults harm.

We endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable adults by

- Being aware of safeguarding guidelines and adopting these in our policies
- Making our members aware that we take safeguarding matters seriously and respond to all concerns
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately
- Safe recruitment for staff/volunteers and selection and, where appropriate, requesting a DBS check
- Effective management of staff/volunteers, ensuring access to supervision, support and safeguarding training.

Supporting guidance

All members of the CDF Council/staff should know what to do to keep its members/family of members safe and what action to take if they think that someone is being harmed.

Definitions

- A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday
- A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services or is resident in a continuing care facility by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness or who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation

Signs of abuse

Members of CDF, Council or administrators may observe the signs of abuse or neglect or hear something that causes them concern about a child or vulnerable adult. CDF members/Council/staff are not responsible for diagnosing child abuse or neglect but must share concerns appropriately. CDF Council/administrators should be aware of the local procedures for child protection.

Abuse or neglect may be suspected as a result of:

- A direct allegation ('disclosure') made by the child, vulnerable adult, a parent or some other person
- Signs and symptoms suggestive of physical abuse or neglect
- Observations of child behaviour or parent-child interaction, or observation of the vulnerable adult and the relationship they have with their carer.

If abuse or neglect is suspected

If you have concerns about a member/family of a member who may have been abused and there is no satisfactory explanation, you should:

- Discuss your concerns with a CDF Council member
- If you remain concerned, you should seek informal advice from the local social services department without disclosing the child's name to help you decide whether a formal referral is needed

Where there is serious physical injury arising from suspected abuse, you should:

- Refer the individual to the nearest hospital A&E department, with the consent of the person having parental responsibility or care of the child
- Advise the A&E department in advance that the patient is being sent.
- If consent is not obtained, contact the duty social worker at the local Social Services Department or the police, so that action can be taken to safeguard the welfare of the individual

Signed Miss S Matthew, President CDF

Date:

Review date: