

Referrals to Statutory Agencies: Guidance and Examples

Statutory Authority	When to refer	Case Examples
<p>Children’s Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you are concerned that a child or young person under 18* has been subject to abuse – physical, emotional, sexual or neglect within the home • When a child or young person has disclosed that they have been harmed in the above way within the home. • When there is a disclosure or concern about domestic abuse being perpetrated within a family where there are children and young people under the age of 18. (They do not need to be present at the time of the abuse) • When there are concerns about a child or young person under the 18 within the wider community – involvement in gang activity, substance use, at risk of sexual exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have noticed the deteriorating presentation of 2 children who attend Sunday school and you are concerned about neglect. • A member of the youth group has become increasingly withdrawn and you notice that they have some cuts on their arms. The parents are asking for support and help.** • A member of the church has been supporting a lady in the church who has disclosed that there is an on-going abusive relationship with her ex-partner and her children are having regular contact with him which is unsupervised. • A child within the Sunday School is anxious and tearful – they have told you that they are worried about their 13-year-old sister – she keeps staying away from home and has new group of friends who are older than her. They say their mum doesn’t know what to do.

*Or under the age of 25 if the child has special educational needs, disability or is a ‘Looked After’ child/Child in Care.

**In this situation, it may be that children’s social care will redirect you to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMS) or the child’s GP.

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<p>Adult Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you have concern that an adult at risk may be subject to abuse – physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, financial etc • When you have concerns that an adult at risk may be struggling to meet their own needs and therefore at increased risk of harm. • When there are concerns that an adult is a significant risk of harm to themselves or others due to deterioration in mental health or capability* • Where another adult or adults have moved into the property of an adult at risk (this is sometimes called ‘cuckooing’) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You notice that one of the older members in the congregation is increasingly unkempt, appears to be very confused and at times distressed. • An adult with learning difficulties tells you that one of their carers keeps asking to borrow money from them and they can’t afford to buy their food. • An adult with long standing mental health needs has attended church under the influence of alcohol for the past 2 weeks. • An adult with complex needs is about to be made homeless by their landlord because they haven’t been looking after their property • You believe that one of the older members of the church may be subject to emotional and physical abuse from their grandson.

- Churches are unlikely to be able to make direct referrals to community mental health services. This service can be accessed through the individual’s GP.

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<p>LADO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When there are concerns about the ‘suitability’ of a member of the leadership or those working directly with children and young people or adults at risk within the church, which poses a risk to those under 18. • When an allegation or disclosure is made about an adult in a position of trust in the wider community relating to their behaviour towards children and young people, either within the church or externally • When there is a possibility of transferrable risk from an allegation of harm (child abuse, domestic abuse) to the church relating to someone in a position of trust or leadership within the church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The son of a teacher in the local school has told the youth leader at the church that his dad has hit him in the past when he has been cross. • One of the Deacons has grabbed one of the children in church by the arm and shook them because they weren’t listening in Sunday school. • There has been an incident at home where the youth worker has assaulted their wife. The police were called but the wife did not want to press charges. They don’t have any children. • There are rumours that one of the volunteer youth leaders is in a relationship with a 16-year-old in the youth group. They have been seen holding hands in town. • A volunteer with the creche left the gate open from the playground to the road and a 3-year-old left the site. His absence was noticed after a couple of minutes, he was found and brought back safe and sound. • Where a children’s leader repeatedly loses their temper with, shouts at, or belittles, the children in their care.

If you are unsure who to refer to then contact your Association Safeguarding Contact for advice. If you believe that in waiting for a response from the Association Safeguarding Contact could increase the risk of harm posed by the situation then this is an indication that it is most likely appropriate to contact the police for advice.

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