

Where can I find out more?

The AM Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy would be glad to tell you more. They can also point you towards relevant online training (see Quaker contacts box inside).

Sessions will be arranged to raise awareness of safeguarding from time to time. These will be publicised in your Local Meeting.

You could also look at our AM Safeguarding documents on www.wwesquakers.org.uk. These include guidance on recognising signs of abuse.

The golden rules of safeguarding

Our Quaker testimony to equality reminds us to treat everybody with dignity, respect & fairness

Listen carefully

Explain what you are going to do

Seek advice from someone with greater experience or expertise

Be prepared to challenge unacceptable behaviour

Avoid private or unobserved situations

Don't make inappropriate promises, particularly about confidentiality

Avoid questionable activity, for example inappropriate physical contact such as rough play or inappropriate language or gestures

Report all concerns or allegations of abuse to the AM Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy

Safeguarding is everyone's concern

Doing nothing is not an option

SAFEGUARDING

*in West Wiltshire &
East Somerset Area Meeting*



What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is **protecting people from abuse or neglect**. A safeguarding concern can be raised about anyone. The two groups of people to whom safeguarding particularly applies are:

- All children & young people
- Adults with care and/or support needs

What is abuse?

There are many different forms of abuse. Some forms of abuse would be plain to see but many would not.

For children & young people, this might be physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, grooming, neglect, child sexual exploitation and extremism.

For adults, this might be physical abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial or material abuse, modern slavery, discriminatory abuse, organisational abuse and neglect. Acts of omission and self-neglect can also be forms of abuse.

What should I do if a child or an adult tells me they are being abused?

Stay calm and listen carefully. Ask open non-judgemental questions for clarification only.

Record exactly what was said using the person's own words.

Reassure them that they are right to have told you and that you have heard what they said.

Explain that you will need to pass this on to one or two Quakers who will know best what to do and how to help, and they may need to tell people outside Quakers. **Do not promise confidentiality.**

If you consider that the person is at immediate risk of serious harm, call the police or MASH *Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub* on 999 and be guided by them. Then inform the AM Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy. (See contact boxes.)

If you consider that there is no immediate danger, pass on what you have been told to the AM Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy. If they are both unavailable, tell your Local Meeting's Clerk or Trustee. (See contact boxes.)

If you are unsure about what you have been told and no Quaker contact is available, call the Safeguarding Emergency Helpline at Thirtyone:Eight for advice on whether or not to call the police. (See contact boxes.)

Do not investigate further yourself

What will the AM Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy do?

The AM Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy will talk to you and to the person making the disclosure:

- To see what support may be needed
- To decide if there is ongoing risk, either to the person or to someone else
- To decide if there is need for statutory involvement and, if so, inform the appropriate authorities and the AM Clerk to Trustees

What should I do if I'm concerned that someone in Meeting is being abused?

Explain your concern to the AM Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy who will decide what steps might need to be taken.

Quaker contacts in Area Meeting (AM)

AM Safeguarding Coordinator

Sally Harris 01225 833470

sally.harris@btinternet.com

AM Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator

Alex Hart 01373 228573 / 07547 708288

alex@myphone.coop

AM Trustee for your Local Meeting

www.wwesquakers.org.uk/area-meeting.php

Further contacts

Thirtyone:Eight (*a safeguarding organisation used by Quakers for advice & training on safeguarding children & adults*)

<https://thirtyoneeight.org>

emergency helpline 0303 003 1111

MASH (*Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub combining police and local authority social services for children only*)

via **999** or as below

For Somerset

Safeguarding Children Board

<https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/>

For Bath & North East Somerset

Local Safeguarding Children Board

<http://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/report-concern-about-child>

For Wiltshire

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-protection>

NSPCC (*for children only*)

helpline 0808 800 5000

10am-4pm Monday to Friday

help@nspcc.org.uk for 24-hour response