

MTT POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR SAFEGUARDING

**Mustard Tree Trust
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FOR SAFEGUARDING**

St Aidans Church

Shields Road

Morpeth

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Revised and approved: 31st March 2022

A. Policy Statement

Mustard Tree Trust is an organisation up of volunteers and paid staff. We believe that all human beings are of equal worth in the sight of God and aim to follow Biblical principles in all that we do.

Therefore:

- We commit ourselves to the nurture, protection, and general welfare of all, especially children and adults at risk of harm (see appendix for definition of this and other reserved terms). Keeping children safe is of paramount importance and the need to provide adequate care for children and young people is at the forefront of our activities.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to protect children and adults at risk of harm from all forms of abuse and to report any disclosures of abuse in addition to suspicions or concerns.
- In order to achieve this, we are committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and adults at risk of harm. We will provide appropriate supervision, recognise mutual accountability and commit to an annual review of our safeguarding policy, procedures and practices.
- In fulfilling our commitments, we will work, in partnership, as appropriate, with parents, carers, statutory agencies and other organisations.

Mustard Tree Trust has adopted the above principles; all volunteers and staff are presented with a copy and expected to follow the procedures and guidelines as set out in this document.

B. Statutory Compliance for Mustard Tree Trust

The standards in this policy build on and incorporate legislation and government expectations for children and adults at risk of harm. This includes HM Government 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)' and new safeguarding duties under the Care Act 2014. The guidance is for statutory agencies and voluntary organisations alike and covers all the expectations of government in relation to safeguarding children in England.

NOTE: In most instances, Mustard Tree Trust's activities and events which are covered by this policy relate to work conducted with children and young people (under 18 years of age). In some instances this work includes young adults at risk of harm. Throughout this document safeguarding policy and procedures will be applied consistently to all cases unless otherwise stated. irrespective of the age of the recipients

We commit to the following standards:

- 1) **Adopt a policy statement on safeguarding the welfare of children and young adults at risk of harm.** The policy statement included in this document has been adopted

following approval by the Board of Mustard Tree Trust. It is reviewed annually, and is available for public scrutiny on our website.

2) **Plan the work of the organisation so as to minimise situations where the abuse of children may occur.**

We have established and will maintain and review clear procedures to fulfil this policy. They are set out in detail in this document and are under constant review, with any updates necessary given in writing at least annually.

3) **Introduce a system whereby children may talk with an independent person.**

Our procedures discourage the formation of exclusive relationships, and our activities are organised in such a way that children have access to a number of people. We are, though, committed to listening to children and giving them the opportunity to talk about any worries or concerns that they may have. We publicise relevant contact numbers of independent organisations. ***See Appendix D***

4) **Apply agreed procedures for protecting children to all paid staff and volunteers.**

We have established minimum procedures for all workers, and training and comprehensive procedures for workers in direct contact with children. All workers are required to comply with this policy.

5) **Give all staff and volunteers clear roles.**

All paid staff have a written job description and all volunteers are given a clear written role profile.

6) **Use supervision as a means of creating a safeguarding culture across the organisation.**

All workers plan and review their work with the person to whom they are accountable.

7) **Treat all would-be paid staff and volunteers as job applicants for any position involving contact with children.**

We have comprehensive application and selection procedures for all workers.

8) **Gain at least two references from people who have experience of the applicant's paid work or volunteering with children.**

We require a reference from at least two people (church leaders or equivalent for each applicant, seeking information which includes character and relationship assessment. This includes applicants who work with children annually for short periods. We inform referees if work involves direct contact with children.

We appreciate that some of our volunteers are young adults wanting to begin work with children, and therefore it may not be possible to gain references which relate to relevant experience. However, young leaders may be able to get a good character reference from a teacher etc.

9) **Explore all applicants' experience of working or contact with children in an interview before appointment.**

All staff, and volunteers for leadership positions, are interviewed prior to appointment.

General team members on short-term placements are not normally interviewed but see (11) below.

10) **Find out whether an applicant has any conviction for criminal offences against children.**

All workers are required to sign a declaration disclosing a criminal conviction or caution. Annual short-term volunteers with children are required to do so annually. This includes, subject to certain exceptions, disclosing convictions which for other purposes are 'spent', as posts involving direct work with children are exempt from the provision of section 4(ii) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions Order 1975

11) **Make paid and voluntary appointments conditional on the successful completion of a probationary period.**

While the short-term nature of much of our volunteer work makes probationary periods inappropriate, we are aware that many volunteers will have limited experience. Appropriate support is provided for each circumstance. In practice, this may mean sharing of responsibility, rather than having unsupervised responsibility, for children.

Team leaders have the authority to ask team members to leave an event if it is in the best interest of the children.

We have a system of specific and general induction for staff, leading into an initial six-month work review, and an on-going review process. The on-going review process applies to all workers with children and adults at risk of harm.

12) **Issue guidelines on how to deal with a disclosure and/or concern of abuse.**

Comprehensive guidelines are established and reviewed annually. They are held by the Charity Administrator. Responsibility for ensuring they are implemented and reviewed lies

with the trustees and the trustee for safeguarding.

13) Train paid staff and volunteers, their line managers or supervisors, and policy makers.

We ensure that training is provided regarding the safe care of children, including increasing understanding of the prevalence of abuse, along with the signs and indicators of abuse.

C. Safer Recruitment

Note: Throughout this section Enhanced Disclosures are only undertaken in respect of the adults at risk of harm (vulnerable adults) workforce, when it is known that individuals will be entering into Regulated Activity with such adults.

- The standards listed above are applied to our safe recruitment procedures, specifically standards 4,5,7,8,9,10,11 and 13. Mustard Tree Trust is committed to undertaking careful recruitment and selection procedures as stated in this policy. Applicants are appointed (or excluded from service) at the discretion of the Person Responsible (see Appendix B) and, where appropriate, in communication with other parts of the organisation.
- All potential employees and new team members must complete an application form, which will include, but are not limited to questions on the following:
 - motivations for applying
 - details of any criminal record
 - details of driving offences, and
 - details of two referees.

The application form will also include:

- an explanation that applicants will be required to request an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service for all relevant roles (subject to Update Service registration status)
- the fact that Mustard Tree Trust has a policy on Employing People with a Criminal Record and that the existence of a criminal conviction does not necessarily rule out acceptance of an applicant, and
- a commitment to the safeguarding policy.

For event volunteers, a new applicant is one who has not worked on an event before. Team members who have had a break in service of more than one year will be treated as new applicants unless the event leader indicates that they have remained in sufficiently close contact to be assured that their personal circumstances remain unchanged. A break of two years would mean they would be treated as new applicants without exception.

- All potential employees will be interviewed by their prospective line manager, a trustee, and at least one other person. New event team volunteer applicants may be required to participate in a safer recruitment interview with a member of the Mustard Tree Staff Team or other suitably qualified person.
- Two references will be required for each new applicant. If there are concerns about either or both of the references, additional reference(s) will also be taken up.

Communication with referees will include a statement about the significance of the information being requested, the importance of the role of the team member and the paramount importance of the safety of children and adults at risk of harm, for all roles involving work with children.

- All those who seek employment with Mustard Tree Trust as paid staff or volunteers and whose work is likely to involve face to face activity with children are required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), unless they are registered with the update service (see below) For those who are expected to engage in regulated activity, a barring list check is also made. This will be carried out every three years thereafter, unless there is a significant change in an individual's circumstances.

- Potential Trustees of Mustard Tree Trust are required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure before their appointment is confirmed. On appointment Trustees DBS checks will be carried out every three years thereafter.
- Some staff in key managerial positions (where there is a responsibility for the selection or supervision of those working with children) are also required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure.
- Other members of staff who do not normally work with children as part of their duties but who subsequently work with children in MTT activities are at that point asked to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure.
- Other staff whose work involves contact with children or in supervisory or selection roles of those working with children are also required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure at the time of appointment.

- Those with criminal convictions, cautions, cases pending, reprimands or bindovers are not necessarily unable to take up positions with Mustard Tree Trust, which abides by its policy on 'Employing People with a Criminal Record'.

Individual cases will be considered on merit, but as general guidance convictions or cautions in the categories listed below exclude an applicant from an appointment that requires work with children and adults at risk of harm:

- any form of abuse involving children and adults at risk of harm
- any types of serious violence, and
- recent offences involving misuse of substances such as drugs or alcohol.

- Mustard Tree Trust has a contracted agreement with a Registered Body (currently Atlantic Data as a Scripture Union Missions Partner) for all its DBS checks.
- Mustard Tree Trust has an administrator who process all DBS checks through the online system provided by the contracted Registered Body.
- Mustard Tree Trust abides by the Code of Practice established by the DBS.
- Verification of identity and processing of applications by prospective trustees is carried out by the MTT Administrator.
- The MTT Administrator carries out verification of identity of prospective staff and processing of staff applications for Enhanced Disclosures.
- Applicants from overseas or those living in England and Wales for a short time may not be eligible for a Disclosure from the DBS. Every effort will be made to take whatever measures are available according to the comparative methods in their own country, but where there is any doubt as to the availability of a thorough check the application will be refused.

Update Service

- Those requiring Disclosures for work with Mustard Tree Trust are required to apply to the DBS via Mustard Tree Trust.
- Where an individual has registered a disclosure certificate with the DBS update service, Mustard Tree Trust will accept registered disclosure certificates that comply with the following criteria:
 - The disclosure is for the 'Child Workforce' category and
 - It is an 'Enhanced Disclosure' and
 - There is a barred list check if the individual is expected to be in regulated activity.
- Where the online disclosure check contains information about cautions, convictions, reprimands or warnings or other relevant information the procedure below on handling disclosure information will be followed.
- For disclosures that are registered with the update service these will also be checked on a rolling 3-year basis.

Handling Disclosure Information

- If a Disclosure contains information about cautions, convictions, reprimands or warnings or other relevant information, advice on how to proceed is sought by MTT Administrator from the Safeguarding Trustee, and Scripture Union as a Mission Partner.

- Information recorded on the Disclosure may be shared by the MTT Administrator only with those directly involved in the particular employment decision.
- Information recorded on the Disclosure is only shared if it is likely to affect the employment decision, which is then made in accordance with Mustard Tree Trust's policy on Employing People with a Criminal Record.
- If additional information is received from a police force, action follows the procedure outlined in the letter and is not shared with the applicant or anyone other than those making the employment decision, and only with those people if the police letter received does not forbid it.
- The date and disclosure number of all checks are recorded by the MTT Administrator.

▪ **Specific recruitment procedures applying to events run by Mustard Tree Trust**

- . Once the Disclosure has been processed and deemed satisfactory, the applicant's place on a team is confirmed.
- Some forms of physical, emotional or mental illness may make a volunteer applicant unsuitable for the role for which they have applied.
- Returning volunteers will be asked to confirm whether or not their circumstances have changed since their original application. If changes have occurred, the application may be reconsidered.
- It is acknowledged that some team members may have little or no experience of working with children and adults at risk of harm, while others may have plenty. An agreed set of safety guidelines and expectations of team behaviour will be communicated by the leader prior to the event.
- Each event will designate an individual, who is appropriately trained to be the safeguarding lead person for the event. All team members will, similarly, receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

Support team

- On some events, a few people provide key supporting roles such as catering for the team. If these people are participating in the event on a residential basis they are engaged in regulated activity and, as such, will require an Enhanced Disclosure with barring list check for the Child Workforce. If they are not participating in the event on a residential basis, they will not require an Enhanced Disclosure check unless it is anticipated that, to enable the smooth running of the event, they will become engaged in face-to-face activity with children.

Junior helpers

- Young people under 18 and who help on an event are 'junior helpers.' If an event runs a junior helper scheme, training will be provided to this group.
- Junior helpers must complete a junior helper application form which includes any health issues and parental consent.
- Those under 18 are not permitted to have unsupervised responsibility for the care of children on an event.

Visitors

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- At no time is an ad-hoc volunteer (e.g. parent, visitor) to be given unsupervised responsibility for a group of children. They are asked to sign a visitors' register.

D. Code of Conduct

- All those working with children and adults at risk of harm on behalf of Mustard Tree Trust will treat them with respect and dignity, which should be reflected in attitude, behaviour and speech.
- Mustard Tree Trust acknowledges that it has a duty of care for a child or adult at risk of harm participating in a Mustard Tree Trust event.
- Teams of event workers (volunteers and/or staff) on mixed gender events will include male and female members, and the organisation of activities within the events will reflect this balance wherever possible.
- Teams will aim to work in groups and in public areas so that contact between participants and team members is in sight of others.
- All workers will avoid forming exclusive relationships or those which could be seen as showing favouritism to individual participants.
- Wherever a team member finds themselves involved in a potentially lengthy counselling situation, they should seek to involve another member of the team at an early stage. Promises of confidentiality will be avoided and items shared with leaders or adults with relevant experience.
- It is normally inappropriate for adults to initiate physical contact with participants, and team members should be cautious of contact initiated by participants, except in exceptional circumstances such as the need for medical attention or to prevent harm.
- The use of any corporal punishment is strictly prohibited i.e. any form of physical discipline is not acceptable.
- Any physical contact with children in the area of incident management will be purely in terms of an intervention which prevents the child exercising violent, or other inappropriate, behaviour and/or from hurting themselves or others. Minimal force will be used, for the minimum time necessary, and witnessed by another team member where possible. A record of any such intervention must be made.
- If it is necessary to send a child or adult at risk of harm home from an event early, they will either be collected by a parent/guardian/carer or accompanied home so that the responsibility for their welfare is clearly transferred, unless other arrangements are agreed with the child's parents/carers ideally in writing e.g. email.
- On residential events, the event's Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for establishing and recording the detailed protocol regarding any access required to children's sleeping accommodation by team members. They will take into consideration the commitment to the protection and general welfare of children, the specific features of the event's setting and the whole of this Code of Conduct.
- Team leaders and members are in a 'relationship of trust' with participants and must take care that an abuse of that trust does not occur. Any behaviour which might allow an

intimate relationship (emotional, physical or sexual) to develop between a person in a position of trust and the individual(s) in their care must be avoided.

- This relationship of trust is also in place outside the actual event in any communication between team and participants Any communication or direct contact with a child will therefore be characterised by transparency and integrity and must operate within Mustard Tree Trust's policy on safeguarding children.
- Team members will not communicate outside of the event with participants other than as directed by the event leader and be consistent with Mustard Tree Trust's data protection requirements. Such communication would be limited to occasional postal contact, such as a post card/ Christmas card or moderated social media groups and would never take the form of spiritual mentoring.
- Children and young people should always be made aware of the child-friendly version of this policy and who they can contact about any concerns that they have. In addition to speaking to team members during an event, they should be made aware of the SU emergency number (Summer only) and email addresses (tbc) and the Childline number.

Online Events

- Leaders for online events should be recruited under the same safer recruitment policy as for face-to-face events.
- Session leaders should work from a 'public' space in a home and ask the children and young people to do the same. On a video call, the background should be appropriate to the meeting, using background effects to show a neutral setting.
- For any contacts made by email, Teams or Zoom, a Mustard Tree Trust account should always be used.
- Manage all sessions actively with two adults running the session; similarly, two adult team members must always be present in any breakout room.
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Guests

- All guests are expected to comply with the event's behaviour policy. These expectations must be clearly communicated to all guests at the outset of the event. If a child's behaviour necessitates them being prevented from taking part in an activity, this will be done in a way which considers their welfare.
- The behaviour policy is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all guests and team members and should be set by the event leaders, in consultation with the designated safeguarding lead, having considered this policy and the leaders' handbook and having undertaken a risk assessment for their event.

E: 1. REPORTING CONCERNS

Whilst working on Mustard Tree Trust events, team members (volunteers or staff) may be told about various personal situations which the participants they work with have experienced. Team members also may be told matters which give concern about the mental health or general wellbeing of a participant. In the majority of situations, being prepared to give the time to listen and care without being judgmental will be of great value and assistance. In some cases, it may be possible and appropriate to offer advice and prayer.

It is possible that the nature of our work may increase the likelihood of participants disclosing an issue which puts them 'at risk' or suggest that they have been or are being abused. Such disclosures may cover a range of potentially harmful situations including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, spiritual abuse, bullying and peer-to-peer abuse. Definitions of these terms are covered in Appendix C.

Whether the matter raised is a concern of disclosure of potential or actual abuse the following procedure must be followed by the team member:

- Give the person time to talk freely but without fear of being overheard. Treat them with respect and acceptance. Always accept what is being said at this stage. Do not ask questions other than to clarify what is being said. Never put words into the person's mouth and be careful with your tone of voice so as not to appear shocked or angry or to show disbelief.
- Do not promise to keep the matter 'secret'. Explain that you must share the information with the Designated Safeguarding Lead of the event who may in turn call upon other people who will be able to help.
- Stay with the person until you feel they have said all they want to say. Try to avoid leaving them in a distressed state.
- Inform the event's Designated Safeguarding Lead of the concern or disclosure as soon as possible.
- Make a written report of what happened on the safeguarding concern form provided as soon as possible (not in the participant's presence). Do not interpret, only record what was said as verbatim as possible.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads and overall event leaders will be aware that members of the team involved in handling these situations may also need appropriate help throughout the process and afterwards. Counselling support may be appropriate; the Mustard Tree Trust national office should be contacted regarding this (Appendix A)
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The Designated Safeguarding Lead must follow the process laid out in Appendix A and report the concern or a disclosure of abuse. It is not their role (or that of any team member) to determine if a threshold of abuse has been reached nor to make a decision about the disclosure based on their assessment of other information held. That is a matter which will be considered by our contracted safeguarding advisors (currently Thirtyone:eight). Our safeguarding advisors will consider concerns about a child's welfare consistently and proportionately.

If contact with the person making the disclosure continues during the event, try to ensure that this

is as 'normal' as possible, and avoid drawing attention to the situation or repeatedly referring to it unless the person initiates further discussion.

Concerns about an adult at risk of harm should also be referred to the Thirtyone:eight helpline for advice.

Although Mustard Tree Trust is committed to safer recruitment and to the upholding of the Code of Conduct and the procedures described in this document, it remains possible that there may be individuals within our employed or volunteer workforce who may be a risk to children young people and adults.

If an allegation is made against any member of the event team or its leader or a worker has concerns about a fellow worker, the same process must be followed as detailed above and our contracted safeguarding advisors must be contacted consistent with Appendix A. In these specific circumstances, the Designated Safeguarding Lead must ask the advisor if the team member or leader must leave the event immediately in order to safeguard children on the holiday. If the subject of concern is the event's designated safeguarding lead, the concern should be raised with either the overall event leader or the Head of Mission Event Operations (currently Jo Morley)

Any team member who is concerned about the way an allegation or disclosure has been handled will contact the Leadership Team member who is the operational lead for safeguarding (currently Rachel Warwick)

At every stage, procedures will show respect for people and will involve careful consultation, not hasty reaction.

Any concerns or allegations of non-recent abuse will be processed consistent with the process flowchart if the matter is disclosed on a current Mustard Tree Trust event. In all other instances, the (national) operational lead for safeguarding should be notified. She will contact our contracted safeguarding advisors for advice in the first instance.

In all circumstances, referrals to the relevant statutory agencies, including the LADO (England only) will be made when the advice given by our safeguarding advisors is to do so. In all other circumstances, the advice must be followed unless explicit authorisation to the contrary is given by any two of the MTT Trustees.

If a Mustard Tree Trust employee becomes aware of a concern relating to Mustard Tree Trust which they become aware of outside of an event, they should immediately contact Mustard Tree Trust's Safeguarding Advisers and follow the processes set out in Appendix A. If the concern relates to another organisation, they should inform that organisation's Designated Safeguarding Lead and inform their line manager.

F Processing of personal data

Information and personal data relating to safeguarding matters will be gathered, recorded and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 2018, and Mustard Tree Trust's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice. This will be done in compliance with the requirements of IICSA (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse).

G. Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the approval of Mustard Tree Trusts' safeguarding policy.

A named trustee (currently Heather Cape) is the designated lead person for safeguarding.

The MTT Administrator (Lindsey Collings) is the operational lead for safeguarding matters and for reporting, as necessary, individuals to the DBS. Other safeguarding tasks, including the making of referrals to the LADO or statutory agencies may be delegated to other staff who will have been appropriately trained.

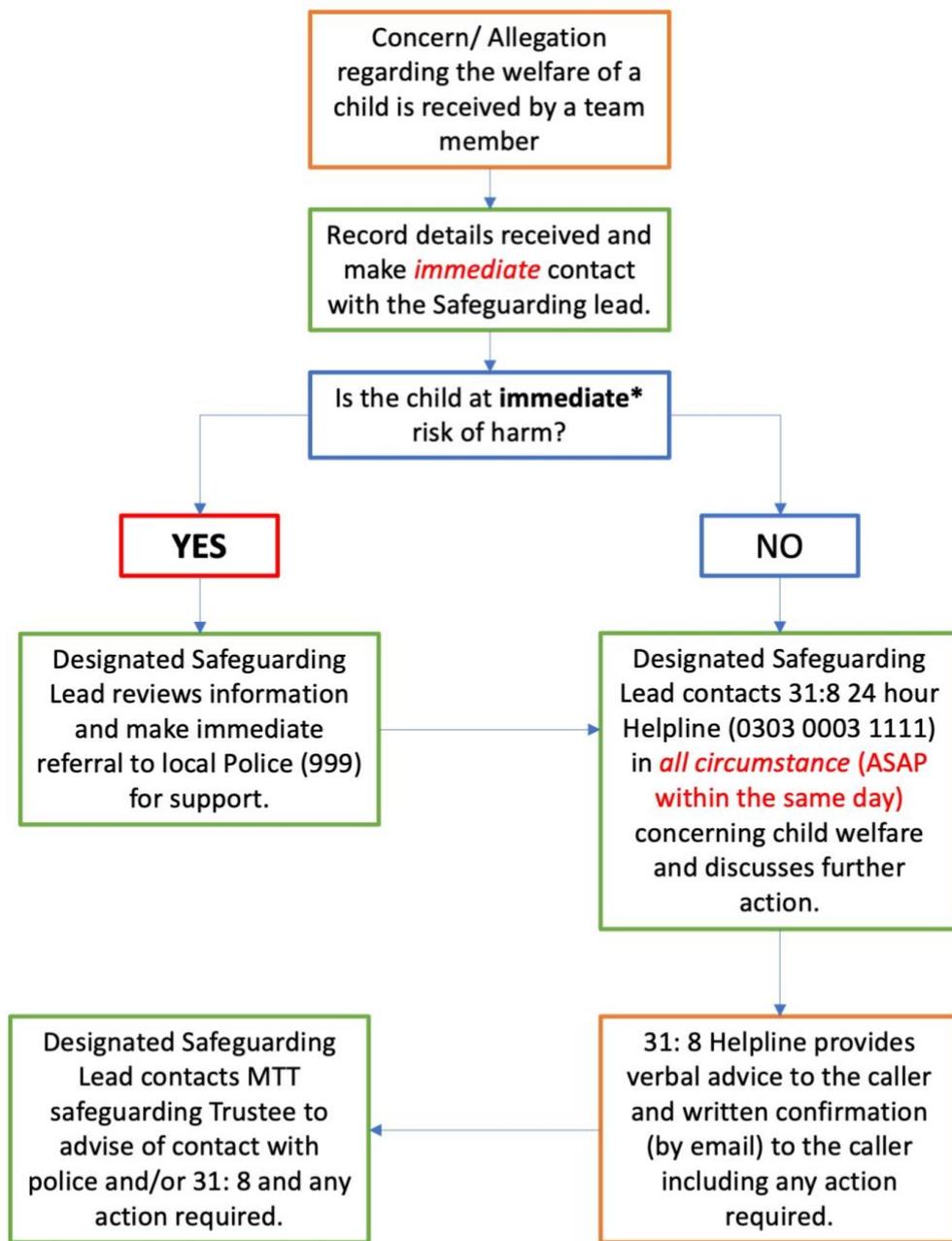
Each Mustard Tree Trust event will have a named and appropriately trained safeguarding lead.

The Mustard Tree Trust Administrator is responsible for reporting notifiable cases to the Charity Commission.

APPENDIX A: Reporting Information Concerning the Welfare and Protection of a Child

FLOWCHART FOR REPORTING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF A CHILD

Note: This may relate to a welfare concern occurring at an event, including the actions of children or adults or a concern regarding the welfare of a child outside of an event.



* *Immediate* is used to describe any situation where if the child were to remain in their current environment there would be an ongoing risk of harm (i.e. posed by another person with whom they have contact). This also applies if a child were to leave or be taken from the environment by a person who may cause them harm.

Appendix B Glossary

Adult at risk of harm	A person who is aged 18 or over and who has care and support needs as defined by the Care Act 2014
Child	Anyone under the age of 18
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
Designated Safeguarding Lead	The appropriately trained person who is the designated lead for safeguarding on an event.
Event	Any event where Mustard Tree Trust takes responsibility for participants who are, generally, under the age of 18 years.
First Aider	Person with current, appropriate qualification to administer first aid.
Junior Helpers	Those younger than 18 and who assist on an event but who will not have unsupervised responsibility for, or undertake regulated activity with, anyone under the age of 18 years.
Leaders	People who have been given overall responsibility for an event through an appointment procedure.
Participants	Those who attend an event.
Person Designated for Emergencies	The person on duty for emergency cover (including out of hours), who will usually be someone in a senior management role in the organisation
Person Responsible	Normally this will be one of the following, the nature of the post being recruited to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding Trustee• Lead Staff member from MTT leading event• MTT Administrator with responsibility for DBS checking
Regulated Activity	‘Regulated Activity’ (as defined by the Protection of Freedoms Act, 2012) involving a substantial degree of contact with children including unsupervised activities such as teaching, supervising, training or providing advice/guidance on well-being (this applies to most people working with, or responsible for, children in a church situation, including the Church Leader, Pastor, Minister, Vicar).
Team	Event leaders, team members, support team and junior helpers.
Team members	Others over the age of 18 who are involved in the event.
Workers	Anyone engaged in Mustard Tree Trust’s ministries, either as employees or volunteers.

APPENDIX C

Definitions of abuse

Children

1. Abuse and neglect

ENGLAND

Abuse and Neglect (Children)

The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)'.

What is abuse and neglect?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily

involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

WALES

The following definitions of child abuse are recommended as criteria throughout Wales by the Working Together To Safeguard People guidance associated with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, 2014.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This is commonly described using terms such as 'factitious illness by proxy' or 'Munchausen Syndrome by proxy'.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and continuous adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact

activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

1. Spiritual abuse

Spiritual abuse is a form of emotional abuse. It is characterised by a systematic pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour in a religious context. The means of coercion and control may include: manipulation and exploitation, enforced accountability, censorship of decision making, requirements for secrecy and silence, coercion to conform, control through the use of the Bible or teaching, requirements of obedience to the abuser, the suggestion that the abuser has a "divine position", isolation as a means of punishment, and superiority and elitism. (Dr L Oakley)

3. Peer-on-peer abuse and bullying

Peer-on-peer abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, and coercive control between children. It is an issue of serious concern throughout England and Wales and is a significant risk facing children.

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or through online platforms.

Adults

Adult at risk of harm A person who is aged 18 or over and who has care and support needs as defined by the Care Act 2014 (England) and the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, 2014.

The Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who;

- has need for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Organisations should always promote the adult's wellbeing in their safeguarding arrangements. People have complex lives and being safe is only one of the things they want for themselves.

Professionals should work with the adult to establish what being safe means to them and how that can be best achieved. Professional and other staff should not be advocating 'safety' measures that do not take account of individual well-being, as defined in Section 1 of the Care Act.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

This section considers the different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern:

- Physical abuse – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- Domestic violence – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.
- Sexual abuse – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- Psychological abuse – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.
- Financial or material abuse – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Modern slavery – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- Discriminatory abuse – including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- Organisational abuse – including neglect and poor care practice within an Institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.
- Neglect and acts of omission – including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Self-neglect – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. Incidents of

abuse may be one-off or multiple, and affect one person or more.

APPENDIX D: USEFUL CONTACTS

MUSTARD TREE TRUST OFFICES

National Office St. Aiden's Church
 Shields Road
 Morpeth
 NE61 2SA

Thirtyone:eight helpline: Tel: 0303 0031111 option 2
 E:mail: helpline@thirtyoneeight.org

Childline Tel: 0800 1111
 www.childline.org.uk

National Whistleblowing Advice Line Tel: 0800 028 0285

Non-Emergency NHS Tel: 111