

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting
Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

See also the AM Safeguarding Handbook for the Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Safeguarding Officer and those that have responsibilities for activities with children and vulnerable adults

Ipswich and Diss AM are members of Thirtyone:eight (formerly known as Churches Child Protection Advisory Service) and are committed to following the safeguarding standards set out in their online manual. Our policy and procedures have been divided into sections covering all 10 of the standards in the Thirtyone:eight online safeguarding manual.

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The Safeguarding Policy

Section 1 Our Area Meeting

Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting (AM) comprises six Local Meetings as follows:

Bury St Edmunds Local Meeting, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1SJ

Diss Local Meeting, 12, Frenze Road, Diss, IP22 4PA

Felixstowe Local Meeting, St John Ambulance Hall, Ataka Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9DHY

Ipswich Local Meeting, 39, Fonnereau Road, Ipswich, IP1 3JH

Leiston Local Meeting, Friends Meeting House, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston, IP16 4HE

Woodbridge Local Meeting, The Shire Hall, Market Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 4LP

All Area and Local Meetings form part of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Friends House, 173, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ Telephone 0207-6631023

Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting is registered with the Charity Commission: No 1134526 Insurance Company Methodist Insurance, Beauford House, Brunswick Rd., Gloucester, GL1 1JZ Insurance policy number 22/MPG/9126880. (Contact is via AM Trustees)

Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting comprises six Local Meetings as listed above.

Bury St Edmunds; Diss; Ipswich and Leiston Local Meetings meet in Quaker owned Meeting Houses, whilst Felixstowe and Woodbridge meet in premises belonging to other organisations.

Ipswich and Diss has approximately 163 members and 82 attenders, of which about 7 are children and young people (figures for end of 2017). Quakers are appointed from Local Meetings to act as Trustees for the Area Meeting.

Quaker Meetings for Worship are held at least weekly at each Local Meeting. Some Local Meetings hold regular worship sessions for children and young people with occasional activities outside the Meeting House, including residential activities for which Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting takes safeguarding responsibility. Where Meeting Houses are used by other organisations, safeguarding responsibility rests with the organisation concerned. However if Friends Attenders or Wardens become aware of any safeguarding issues in groups using our Meeting Houses then they should act according to the procedures in this document.

Our commitment

As Quakers we aim to provide a safe space for all who enter our places of worship. We recognise that some, whether children, young people or adults, can be put at risk by inappropriate attention from others whom we may also have welcomed into our premises.

We recognise the reality that children and vulnerable adults do experience abuse, that it can happen anywhere and that it is our responsibility to alert the authorities when we discover or suspect abuse.

Ipswich and Diss AM Trustees are committed to supporting all those who organise meetings and activities on our behalf and to offer appropriate training, resources and oversight. Ipswich and Diss AM Trustees take legal responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in their care. Trustees commit to all current legal requirements, and follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children Board (for Suffolk children) and the Norfolk Local Safeguarding Children Board (for Norfolk children) and the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board Policy and Operational guidance (for Suffolk vulnerable adults) and the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Policy and Procedures (for Norfolk vulnerable adults). Advice is also taken from the Quaker Life document 'Meeting Safety' and any documents that update or replace it, and from the Thirtyone:Eight (formerly Churches Child Protection Advisory Service) safeguarding documents.

Members and attenders of all Local Meetings that comprise Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting recognise that all share responsibility for the safety of people in their meetings, for their physical emotional and spiritual welfare and caring for one another.

As an Area Meeting we have adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting Trustees agrees to abide by the following standards adapted from the Thirtyone:Eight online safeguarding manual (formerly CCPAS document 'Safe and Secure'):

Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting Trustees will:

1. Adopt and work to formal safeguarding policy and procedures.
2. Encourage safeguarding awareness and provide training for the Area Meeting Safeguarding Officer (AMSO), and the Deputy Area Safeguarding Officer (DAMSO). Training will also be offered to those helping directly with children's activities.
3. Ensure that special care is taken in Quaker nominations procedures to ensure that safeguarding is of paramount importance. This will include a Criminal Records check for all people helping directly with children and young people.
4. Ensure that Elders of Local Meetings have oversight for and support those who help directly with children.
5. Ensure that all Local Quaker meetings adopt safe working practices with children and young people.
6. Ensure that those responsible for safeguarding and those supporting children and young people are aware of the issues surrounding abuse, be able to recognise possible signs and symptoms and feel able to respond appropriately
7. Ensure that pastoral care and support is available through Local Meeting Overseers/pastoral care groups for, or information is given about where to get help to those affected by abuse
8. Develop plans to supervise and manage those who wish to attend a Quaker meeting who are known to pose a possible risk to children, young people or vulnerable adults
9. Ensure that elders have identified those adults who are vulnerable, as defined statutorily, and be aware of the issues around abuse of vulnerable adults and ensure their support and protection.
10. Support the AM Safeguarding Officers(s) in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and vulnerable adults.
11. File a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with Thirtyone:Eight and the local Safeguarding Children Boards and Vulnerable Adults Boards for both Suffolk and Norfolk, and any amendments subsequently published. The Trustees agree not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations that are not members of Thirtyone:Eight.
12. Trustees will ensure that the operational guidelines attached are revised annually by the AM Safeguarding Officer/s. The Trustees will require that the AM Safeguarding Officer/s report to them annually.

Section 2 Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse or neglect

Understanding abuse and neglect

Defining child abuse or abuse against a vulnerable adult is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm, or failing to prevent harm. Children and adults in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or in a trusted relationship with the child or vulnerable adult.

Definition of child and vulnerable adult

The definition of a child is someone under the age of 18. The definition of a vulnerable adult is a person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him/ herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Appendix 1 in the AM Safeguarding Handbook for the Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Safeguarding officer and those that have responsibilities for activities with children and vulnerable adults (referred to as The AM Safeguarding Handbook from now on) gives a more detailed definition of these terms.

What is abuse?

Abuse of children and young people falls into four main headings:

Physical abuse – any action that causes physical harm to a child.

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

Sexual abuse – forcing or enticing a child to take part in any sexual activities

Neglect – persistent failure to meet a child's basic needs likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

More detailed definitions of abuse of children from the Thirtyone:Eight online safeguarding manual are included in The AM Safeguarding Handbook Appendix 2.

Abuse of vulnerable adults (sometimes referred to as Adults at Risk):

Statutory definitions of abuse of vulnerable adults are given in the AM Safeguarding Handbook Appendix 3, but in summary are:

Physical abuse – infliction of pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately, or through lack of care.

Sexual abuse – involvement in sexual activities to which the person has not consented or does not truly comprehend and so cannot give informed consent, or where the other party is in a position of trust, power or authority and uses this to override or overcome lack of consent.

Emotional abuse – acts or behaviour which cause mental distress or anguish or negates the wishes of the vulnerable adult. Emotional abuse can be said to underpin all other forms of abuse.

Financial abuse – inappropriate use or theft of money or possessions.

Neglect – repeated deprivation of assistance that the vulnerable adult needs for important activities of daily living.

Discriminatory abuse – inappropriate treatment of a vulnerable adult because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality or disability.

Institutional abuse – mistreatment or abuse of a vulnerable adult by a regime or individuals within a group setting. This form of abuse can take place in small as well as large organisations.

Other forms of possible abuse are described by Thirtyone:Eight in Appendix 4 of the AM Safeguarding Handbook.

Signs and symptoms of abuse

Signs of abuse might include physical injury, age-inappropriate sexual activity, changes or regression in behaviour, or untreated illness. Further signs and symptoms are included in The AM Safeguarding Handbook Appendices 5 and 6.

How to respond to a child or vulnerable adult wishing to disclose abuse

It is important to listen to a child or vulnerable adult without asking leading questions or in any way conducting an investigation. Helpful suggestions for effective listening are included in The AM Safeguarding Handbook Appendix 7. It is important to recognise that a child or vulnerable adult may have difficulty recognising and communicating a disclosure of abuse. This is why it is important to be aware of possible signs and symptoms that someone is experiencing abuse.

Safeguarding awareness

Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting Trustees are committed to developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect everyone. They will ensure that the AMSO and DAMSO attend training arranged by British Yearly Meeting Safeguarding Officer/s at Friends House at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre or other centres, or other equivalent training (e.g. through Thirtyone:Eight), and that those responsible for work with children in Local Meetings have induction and follow-up training. All Friends and Attenders helping with children's activities, as well will be offered the opportunity to attend a Thirtyone:Eight 'Safeguarding children' (half day) or

'Safeguarding children and adults' (full day) Foundation training or to study a distance learning module.

All Local Meetings will have a pack of information and a poster to be placed on Meeting House notice boards giving information for children, young people and vulnerable adults about where to find help and advice. A Sample poster is available in the Safeguarding Manual.

Advices and Queries

Friends and Attenders are guided by Advices and Queries set out in Quaker Faith and Practice. Advices and Queries Nos. 19 is relevant to our attitudes and action towards safeguarding:

Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care.

Also from Quaker Faith and Practice:

22.63 (part)

Our children are given to us for a time to cherish, to protect, to nurture, and then to salute as they go their separate ways.

Elizabeth Watson, 1980

21.62 (part)

*The old age of William Penn (1644-1718):
His memory was almost quite lost, and the use of his understanding suspended; so that he was not so conversible as formerly; and yet as near the Truth, in the love of it, as before...*

Thomas Story, 1714

It is the responsibility of all Friends and Attenders to protect and nurture children, young people and vulnerable adults in our Meetings.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should anyone carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse.

Following procedures as below:

- The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to the AM Safeguarding Officer (see Appendix 1 for contact details) who is nominated by the Trustees to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- In the absence of the AM Safeguarding Officer or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Officer, then the report should be made to the Deputy AM Safeguarding Officer (see Appendix 1 for contact details). If the suspicions implicate both the Area Meeting Safeguarding Officer and the Deputy, then the report should be made in the first instance to Thirtyone:Eight or contact Social Services or the police. (see Appendix 1 for contact details).
- Where the concern is about a child the Safeguarding Officer/Deputy should, if practicable, consult with Thirtyone:Eight, and then contact Children's Social Services. Where the concern is regarding an adult in need of protection contact Adult Social Services and/or take advice from Thirtyone:Eight as above.

The local Children's Social Services and Police Child protection Team contact details are in Appendix 1.

- Where required the AM Safeguarding Officer should then immediately inform the insurance company (via Trustees) and strategic personnel within Friends House (see Appendix 1 for contact details)
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the AM Safeguarding Officer, the absence of the Safeguarding Officer or Deputy should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from Thirtyone:Eight.
- The Trustees will support the AM Safeguarding Officer /Deputy in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:Eight. Normally you are asked to refer concerns to your AM Safeguarding Officer or the deputy. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the AM Safeguarding Officer /Deputy has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Officer (s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct.

The role of the AM Safeguarding Officer / deputy is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:

ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, NEGLECT OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the AM Safeguarding Officer /Deputy will:

- Contact Children's Social Services (and/or Thirtyone:Eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so by Thirtyone:Eight or Children's Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Thirtyone:Eight and/or Children's Social Services direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by Thirtyone:Eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the AM Safeguarding Officer /Deputy will:

- Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by Thirtyone:Eight if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Services/Police. Thirtyone:Eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

The following procedure will be followed where there is a concern that an adult is in need of protection:

SUSPICIONS OR ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE

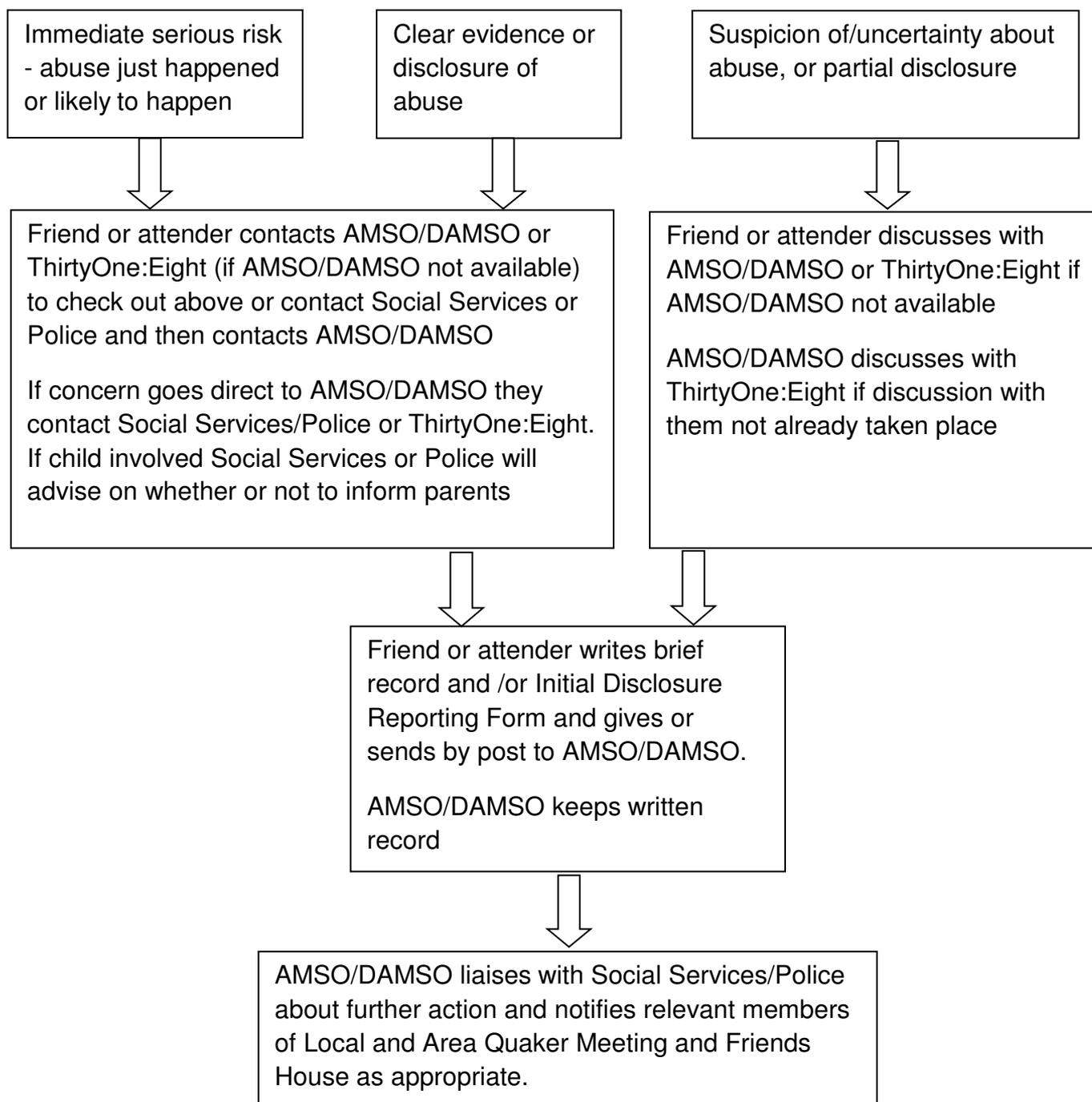
If a vulnerable adult has a physical injury or symptom of sexual abuse the AM Safeguarding Officer /Deputy will:

- Discuss any concerns with the individual themselves giving due regard to their autonomy, privacy and rights to lead an independent life.
- If the vulnerable adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.
- For advice contact the Adult Social Care Vulnerable Adults Team who have responsibility under Section 47 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and government guidance, 'No Secrets', to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively Thirtyone:Eight can be contacted for advice.

Allegation of abuse against someone who helps with children

If an accusation is made against someone helping with children's or vulnerable adults' activities (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff), the AM Safeguarding Officer will, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures, need to liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on appropriate action to be taken regarding the helper, which may involve suspension and or a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Section 3 - Flow chart for action



Section 4 Prevention

Information on safeguarding, including contact details of safeguarding coordinators, will be exhibited at all Meeting Houses and for activities run for children and vulnerable adults away from the Meeting House.

Safe recruitment / appointments

Ipswich and Diss Meeting Trustees will ensure all Members and Attenders who run activities for children or vulnerable adults will be appointed and supported appropriately. This includes ensuring that:

- Nominations Committees take special care with regard to safeguarding when they discern Friends and Attenders to help with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Volunteers and staff complete an offer of service form to work with children and young people and references are taken up. [copies of the forms in the AM Safeguarding Handbook]
- A Criminal Records Check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has been completed for each Member/Attender who runs activities for children or vulnerable adults and is updated every three years.
- No one works unsupervised with children, young people or vulnerable adults without the Clerk of the LM or the AMSO seeing either a clear disclosure form, a clear scheme record or a letter from Quaker Life or the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding stating that they may work with these groups.
- The AMSO keeps a record of those with Criminal Records Checks and ensures that the list is kept current.
- Appropriate training and support is offered to those helping with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Anyone helping in this capacity has had access to a copy of this safeguarding policy and has signed confirming they have read and understood it and knows who to approach if an incident occurs or concern arises.
- Consent forms are completed for activities where children are not accompanied by parents or the parents are not in the building.

Oversight of those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting Trustees are committed to supporting all Members and Attenders who run activities with children and vulnerable adults and to ensuring they receive support and oversight. The Trustees undertake to follow the principles found within the 'Abuse of Trust' guidance issued by the Home Office. Therefore, it is unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

Section 5 Pastoral Care

Supporting those affected by abuse

Trustees are committed to ensuring that Overseers and or Pastoral Care groups offer pastoral care and support to all those in our Meetings who have been affected by abuse and that they suggest referral on to specialist support where necessary or more appropriate.

Working with offenders

When someone who wishes to attend a Local Quaker Meeting is known to have abused children or vulnerable adults or is known to be a risk to children or vulnerable adults, Trustees may arrange for Elders and Overseers of the Local Meeting to accept the individual concerned and offer pastoral care. However the safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable adults is paramount. Before an individual who presents a known safeguarding risk is allowed to attend a Quaker meeting, the AMSO/DAMSO should ensure that a detailed plan is drawn up between a nominated Elder, a nominated Overseer, the Warden of the meeting (if there is one) and the Clerk of the Local Meeting (LM) with boundaries to which that person is required to keep. If they do not keep to these boundaries they will not be allowed to attend any activities, meetings, including Meeting for Worship, organized by LMs. The plan will be tailored to meet individual circumstances and risks. Where the potential risk to children and vulnerable adults is considered to be too great to be managed safely, the person involved will be informed that they will not be able to attend any activities or meetings in the Local Meeting House. Consideration will also be given to informing other Meeting Houses and faith groups in the area about this decision.

In any event and at a very early stage the BYM Safeguarding Office must be informed and advice sought from Friends House and/or Thirtyone:Eight by the Area Meeting Safeguarding Officer/Deputy.

Please see the following Friends House leaflets - available from the Area Meeting Safeguarding Officer:

- Offenders potentially coming to a meeting
- Meetings and (ex) offenders Guide on accepting into our meetings people who may pose a risk

Section 6 Practice Guidelines

As a religious society with children, young people and vulnerable adults among our membership/or and as attenders we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable volunteers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false accusation.

Code of conduct

When in contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- treat everybody with dignity and respect in attitude, language and actions
- avoid any behaviour that may give the impression of favouritism or a 'special' relationship.
- develop awareness of individual needs, likes and dislikes
- be available but don't intrude on personal space and privacy
- avoid questionable activity e.g. rough / sexually provocative games and inappropriate language or comments
- challenge unacceptable behaviour
- be prepared to refer to someone with greater experience / expertise
- follow official policy/ guidelines and report all allegations / suspicions of abuse

Working in Partnership

The diversity of organisations and settings means there can be great variation in practice when it comes to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. This can be because of cultural tradition, belief and religious practice or understanding, for example, of what constitutes abuse.

It is our expectation that any organisation using our premises for activities for children or vulnerable adults, as part of the letting agreement will have their own policy that meets 'Thirtyone:Eight' and or Local Safeguarding Children Board and or Safe Network's (www.safenetwork.org.uk) safeguarding standards.

This safeguarding policy is one means of promoting safeguarding across the Area Meeting as is the displaying of posters, which include the Thirtyone:Eight helpline number, and the Childline telephone number, on notice boards.

Signed by: _____ **Clerk to Trustees**

Date: _____

Appendix 1 – Contact Details

* This page can be updated without the Policy and Procedures being re-approved *

Quaker contact details

Area Meeting Safeguarding Officer (AMSO)

Clive Bach 01206 298 052 (there is an answer phone) and/or 07775 972 641.

Email clive.edwin.bach@gmail.com

Address: Wain Cottage, Orvis Lane, East Bergholt, CO7 6TT

Deputy Area Meeting Safeguarding Officer (DAMSO)

This post is current empty

Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding:

Lucy Pollard lucypetica@gmail.com

Religious Society of Friends British Yearly Meeting Safeguarding Team:

(Quaker Life Network Safeguarding Cluster)

Phone for safeguarding contact: 020 7663 1103.

Email: safe@quaker.org.uk

Address: Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Local Meeting safeguarding Link persons:

Bury: Julia Smith juliaksmith@hotmail.co.uk

Diss: Peter Sorrell peter.sorrell48@gmail.com

Felixstowe: Mary Jones Mary.jones43@btinternet.com

Ipswich: position currently empty (contact AMSO clive.edwin.bach@gmail.com)

Leiston: Seija Tattersall seijatattersall@yahoo.co.uk

Woodbridge: Lucy Pollard lucypetica@gmail.com

Local Authority contact details

Suffolk Social Services:

Children: www.suffolkscb.org.uk

Phone: 01473 265359

If you have a concern about a child or a young person, you need to complete and submit a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) using the new secure Suffolk Children and Young People's Portal:

[Access the Secure Suffolk Children and Young People's Portal](#)

Adults: <https://www.suffolkas.org>

Telephone: 0808 800 4005

If you have a concern about an adult and wish to make a safeguarding referral you need to use the new Suffolk County Council Adult Care Portal. The first time you complete a form you will be asked to create a new portal account.

[Access the secure Adult Care Portal](#)

Norfolk Social Services:

Children: <https://www.norfolkscb.org>

If you are a professional, i.e. working with a child or young person in a formal or voluntary setting and not a family member or member of the public, you can contact the Children's Advice and Duty Service on their direct line: **0344 800 8021**.

If you are a member of the public you can do this through Norfolk County Council's Customer Services on **0344 800 8020**.

Adults: <https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/>
Phone: 0344 800 8020

Police contact details

Suffolk and Norfolk Police

Phone: Emergencies: 999 Non-emergency reports: 101

If you are worried that a child, young person or adult is at risk of abuse, harm or neglect, please call [Customer First](#) on 0808 800 4005.

Thirtyone:Eight (formerly Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service):

Phone: 0303 003 1111

<https://thirtyoneeight.org/>

(for Members Area, AMSO/DAMSO can Login after accessing the above link – Membership number 5366)

APPENDIX 2 Trustees Safeguarding Statement

The Trustees of Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting recognise the importance of the Area Meeting's work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the Trustees on: 7th Mar 2019

The Ipswich and Diss Area Meeting is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children (those under 18 years of age) and young people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the Area Meeting unless they pose a risk to the safety of those in membership or those who attend.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the nomination of all those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that members/attenders/wardens/ helpers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following any guidance issued by Friends House in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the safeguarding officers in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this Area Meeting.

- Supporting parents and families
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting all in the Area Meeting affected by abuse.
- Adapting and following the safeguarding standards developed by Thirtyone:Eight (formerly CCPAS) and documented in the Thirtyone:Eight online safeguarding manual.

We recognise:

- Suffolk and Norfolk Children’s Social Services have lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Suffolk and Norfolk Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult then speak to one of the Safeguarding officers for this Area Meeting (See appendix 1 for contact details).

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from the AM Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

A copy of our safeguarding policy has been lodged with Thirtyone:Eight / Friends House / Suffolk and Norfolk Local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards

Signed by clerk to the Trustees

Signed _____

Date _____