

Safeguarding Young People and Adults

About the Safeguarding Service

- The Church of Scotland has a zero-tolerance approach to harm or abuse of people: any type or level is unacceptable.
- In practice, the following is a useful starting point for identifying harm or abuse: it is any conduct that you suspect or know is having, or could have, a significantly adverse effect on a person who is unable to protect themselves.
- Abuse includes physical, emotional, sexual and financial. It can also mean neglect. Anyone can cause harm. It can happen anywhere.

The Church of Scotland has had a **Safeguarding Service** since 1997. **The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service** is part of a comprehensive safeguarding structure, that includes 3,000 trained safeguarding volunteers. The Safeguarding Service aims to ensure: (a) best practice in **preventing** harm or abuse to children and 'adults at risk' and (b) that the Church makes a timely and appropriate **response** when harm or abuse is witnessed, suspected or reported. This includes working with the police and social work service.




The **Safeguarding Service** provides advice and support on all safeguarding matters including recruitment of staff and volunteers. This includes the process of checking a person's suitability to work with children or protected adults via membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007, Scheme (PVG Scheme). They also provide a comprehensive range of safeguarding training for all groups within the Church. More detail of their work can be found on the Church of Scotland Website. Follow the link below.

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/7106/safeguarding_service_leaflet_who_we_are.pdf

How to contact the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service

In the first instance you are advised to contact the **Safeguarding Co-ordinator for Killearn Kirk** (details below) who will contact the relevant authorities including the police, social work and safeguarding service as appropriate.



Killearn Kirk Safeguarding Coordinator

-  Mrs Agnes Macintosh;
-  Tel :01360 550794
-  Email: safeguarding@killearnkirk.org.uk

However, the Safeguarding Service can be contacted by email, the website or telephone. The service is available 9.00am–5pm, Monday to Friday. You can leave a message on the answering machine outwith these times. But if you suspect or witness serious harm or abuse, or it is reported to you, contact your local police or social work service.

Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service

The Church of Scotland
121 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4YN

-  Telephone: 0131 240 2256
-  Email: safeguarding@churchofscotland.org.uk

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-service>