

Chapter 4: Adult safeguarding champion (designated safeguarding person/s)

Aim of the Chapter

- i. To describe the role of the Adult Safeguarding Champion or appointed Designated Safeguarding Person/s

Joymount Presbyterian Church must nominate at least one person with responsibility for dealing with adult safeguarding concerns, disclosures or allegations about actual or suspected abuse.

This is the Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC).

ASC is a regional definition found in guidance. We do not tend to use this definition in our church communities; instead, we have **Designated Safeguarding Person/s**. However, the role is the same.

Organisations that have staff or volunteers subject to any level of vetting, that is, regulated activity, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 must nominate an ASC.

This therefore includes Joymount Presbyterian Church.

Joymount Presbyterian Church currently has a 'Designated Person' who is the central point for all child safeguarding concerns and may consider expanding this role to include adults (the ASC). Joymount Designated Person (s) will be communicated via our website and church noticeboard.

Joymount Kirk Session has adopted a team approach for safeguarding. This team is approved by Kirk Session.

Key Points

- Designated Persons are volunteers, and the role is increasingly complex. It is mandatory for Kirk Session to fully support this individual.
- As with the Designated Person role, the full responsibility for safeguarding in Joymount Presbyterian Church remains with Kirk Session.
- In Joymount Presbyterian Church a team approach is being taken with a small team managing all safeguarding, children and adults. This might include separate roles for Designated Persons (child safeguarding) and ASCs (adult safeguarding) or combined roles. All involved must be recruited and vetted as appropriate.
- PCI Safeguarding training will be enhanced for Designated Persons to include ASC; the one training programme will be suitable for both roles.

How adult safeguarding is managed must be clearly communicated to the church community.

The role of the Designated Person (for adults, ASC)

The ASC provides oversight in relation to adult safeguarding for the church and is responsible for implementing Joymount Presbyterian Church's Adult Safeguarding Policy Statement.

The ASC must ensure that, at a minimum, Joymount Presbyterian Church safeguards adults at risk by:

- Recognising that adult harm is wrong and must not be tolerated
- Being aware of the signs of harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect
- Reducing opportunities for harm, abuse, exploitation and neglect to occur
- Knowing how and when to report adult safeguarding concerns to HSC Trusts and/or the PSNI

What are the key responsibilities of an ASC?

- To provide information, support and advice for leaders on adult safeguarding in the church.
- To oversee the adult safeguarding training needs in the church.
- To support leaders to ensure that any actions take account of what the adult wishes to achieve. (This must not prevent information about any risk of serious harm being passed to the relevant Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust Adult Protection Gateway Service for assessment and decision-making.)
- To establish contact with the HSC Trust Designated Adult Protection Officer (DAPO), PSNI and other agencies as appropriate.
- To ensure that accurate and up to date records are maintained detailing all decisions made, the reasons for those decisions and any actions taken.
- To compile and analyse records of reported concerns to determine whether a number of low-level concerns are accumulating to become more significant.
- To be accountable to Joymount Kirk Session regarding any issues in the local church.

CHAPTER END