

The Recovery Course Trustee Safeguarding Statement

The Trustees of The Recovery Course pursue relentlessly, and welcome the impact of, the Trust's work with adults seeking help for an addiction, and the families of those adults. The Trustees recognise their responsibility to protect everyone who is directly or indirectly in contact with, or resourced by, the Trust, and are committed to creating and enabling a healthy culture in order to minimise any coercion and control within its work and the Churches who work in partnership.

The Recovery Course is based on the 12-step programme of Alcoholics Anonymous, incorporating Christian principles, and designed solely for anyone seeking to break a dependence on an addiction. We welcome all onto our courses, regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Some do the course to intentionally invest in their recovery, others are looking to address more specific challenges. Either way, the course offers essential tools and practical ideas and support to help understand addiction and help people find lasting recovery.

The Recovery Course is committed to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children, and ensuring their well-being. Specifically:

- We recognise that we have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults who are seeking relief from the effects of addiction, and adults and children in their families, through courses and support structures offered by the Trust and by Churches who partner with the Trust, and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work as group leaders or in a support capacity with adults attending courses and their families.
- We believe in the necessity of creating a healthy culture in our courses where the value of all people is recognised and challenges are responded to appropriately.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service).
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who work with the Trust.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect vulnerable adults and children who are in their care.
- Advising Churches to whom we provide resources of their responsibilities in regard to safeguarding.

We recognise:

- Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult, and Children’s Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child.
- 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 vulnerable adult, or children within their care, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for The Recovery Course.

Justyn Larcombe Safeguarding Coordinator

The above statement was agreed by the Trustees on: 2020.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Signed _____ Position Trustee

Date 2020

The Safeguarding Policy

Details of the organisation

Name of Organisation:	The Recovery Course
Address:	c/o Tonbridge Baptist Church, Darenth Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3HZ
Email address:	info@therecoverycourse.com
Charity Number:	1170792
Brief description of organisation and type of activities with vulnerable adults:	<p>The Recovery Course is a charity based on a Christian ethos established to reach those suffering from the effects of addiction. This goal is pursued through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Recovery Course, a fifteen session course based on the twelve-step programme bringing freedom from addiction, run nationally online and locally in Tonbridge and other locations;- Ongoing informal support to course attendees after the course is finished;- The Recovery Support Group, running alongside The Recovery Course, reaching out and supporting families affected by addiction; and- Building a network of Churches, the Recovery Course Community, nationally and internationally and resourcing them to run The Recovery Course.

Our commitment

As Trustees we recognise the need to provide hope and support in a safe and caring environment for adults suffering from all forms of addiction. We acknowledge that adults in, or seeking relief from, addictive behaviours can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect (including self-neglect). As Trustees we have therefore 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.

The policy is based on the ten **Safe and Secure** safeguarding standards published by Thirtyone:eight).

The Trustees undertake to:

- endorse all relevant safeguarding legislation and good practice recommendations, and adopt and follow the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by Thirtyone:eight.

- provide on-going safeguarding training, support, resourcing, monitoring and supervision for all its workers.
- support the Safeguarding Coordinator in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect vulnerable adults and children who are in their care.
- advise Churches with whom it partners, and to whom it provides resources, of the importance of safeguarding and the need to develop their own policy with the assistance of Thirtyone:eight.

Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse

Understanding abuse

Statutory definitions of adult abuse are set primarily in the context of adults with care and support needs, which do not apply in the context of running a Recovery Course, and are accordingly not reproduced in full here. However, the definition of vulnerable adult includes:

- “... a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including addiction to alcohol or drugs”.

Within the Recovery Course context, facilitators and group leaders are supporting individuals who are openly declaring their vulnerability to a wide variety of addictions, who are sharing personal confidential information within the group environment, and who may be seeking or receiving advice from group leaders or other participants. While participants are working from a positive decision to make a healthy life choice for themselves, and affecting their families and friends, the potential for abuse exists where personal information or knowledge of vulnerability to addiction is mis-used to influence the lives and decisions of participants.

Abuse occurs where there is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights, specifically where an individual is unable to protect him/herself from significant harm or exploitation. While the definitions of physical, sexual, financial and discriminatory abuse are less relevant, the definition of psychological abuse includes:

- “... emotional abuse, obvious or implied threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, compulsion, inappropriate language, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive and/or spiritual networks, withdrawal of or omission to provide opportunities and choice including choice of gender or carer”.

Participation in a Recovery Course, and acting upon the advice received, is a choice that delegates make. Equally, a decision to withdraw early from a course, or ignore advice received, is a choice that delegates make. The key is ‘consent and capacity’ – that is, whether an individual has the capacity to make informed judgements and decisions about advice and services received or offered, even where those decisions might be judged by others to be not in their best interests.

Within a course, the disclosure of personal information within a group, the offering and receiving of advice, and the continuation of informal support outside the course, exposes group leaders and

delegates to the potential for psychological abuse as defined above. Use of social media to provide contact during and following a course may be effective as a means of communication, but caution should be used to avoid inappropriate disclosure which may be forwarded to others as a threat or act of humiliation.

Who can abuse?

- Group leaders facilitating sharing of stories, offering advice and providing support outside the course.
- Fellow delegates who become aware of personal information through group discussion and sharing.
- Delegates themselves - involvement in a Recovery Course may lead to disclosure that an individual delegate's style of life, and actual or intended actions, causes danger to others (both adults and children) in the delegate's family context and may amount to abuse by the delegate. Once aware of such circumstances, a group leader should report concerns.

Things to look out for

Given the primary type of potential abuse is psychological, indicators of abuse are unlikely to be physical, but may emerge from behavioural changes such as withdrawal from participation or other reaction in the presence of the abuser, or from information shared by delegates themselves.

Recruitment of group leaders

The Trustees will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with government guidance on safe recruitment. In pursuance of this aim, Group Leaders will be:

- Selected by a Nominating Committee comprising the Course Leader and Trustees directly involved in running the course.
- Required to undergo a DBS check (not mandatory for the online courses).
- Provided with a pre-course briefing to include safeguarding policy, continuous support through contact with the Course Leader throughout the Course, and debriefing following the Course.
- Provided with details of how to contact the Safeguarding Coordinator where concerns on the Course have not been resolved.
- Provided with a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.

Reporting procedure

It is not the responsibility of Group Leaders or other team members to decide whether or not abuse has taken place. It is vital that all cases of suspected or alleged abuse are raised in line with the procedures in this policy. It is important to do this as there may have been concerns expressed by other team members / other agencies, and failing to report concerns may put a vulnerable person at risk. Under no circumstances should a team member carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse.

The procedures to be followed are:

- Face to face courses - The Small Group Leader or team member in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to the Course Leader, who will consult with the Safeguarding Coordinator at the host church.
- Where the course is run online, the Course Leader should seek advice from the Thirtyone:eight helpline. If the course is being run by the charity on line, the Course Leader should also report to Mr Justyn Larcombe, the Safeguarding Coordinator for the charity.
- A Group / Course Leader may additionally or alternatively always approach the Safeguarding Coordinator directly to report concerns.
- After consultation, the Safeguarding Coordinator, Course Leader and Trustees will agree a course of action which may include:
 - Gathering further information and details by interviewing the person making the report.
 - Possible referral to the Thirtyone:eight helpline.
 - Possible referral to external authorities, such as Social Services, referral organisations or the Police.
- Where the concern involves a young person under the age of 18, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should contact Children's Social Services, noting that the course is only open to those over 18 years old.
- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator **may** need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern (for example the Church's Safeguarding Coordinator to log that a safeguarding concern involving activities on church premises is being dealt with).
- 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 through the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from Thirtyone:eight.
- The Trustees will support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator 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.

Working with offenders

If someone who poses a risk to children, young people or adults with care and support needs wants to join a Recovery Course, it is important the Trustees in conjunction with the hosting Church manage the risk appropriately by creating clear policies and a code of behaviour the individual must follow. As a minimum, this should include a contract giving details of both the boundaries expected of the individual and the support offered to them, for example the presence of an escort while they are on Church premises. The contract should be tailored specifically to individual circumstances and informed ideally by risk assessments from the statutory agencies.

Working in Partnership

It is part of The Recovery Course's strategy to build a community of Churches running the Recovery Course, and providing them with resources and support. The restriction that The Recovery Course seeks to partner only with churches ensures that, from a safeguarding point of view, Recovery Courses are run within the setting of an organisation with an established safeguarding policy and over-seeing Safeguarding Coordinator. That said, with the advent of online courses there is often less of a direct link with churches

In addition, we will discuss with all partners our safeguarding expectations including a policy for safeguarding in the context of a Recovery Course.

Signed by: _____

Date: 2020 _____

Useful contact information:

Safeguarding coordinator

Thirtone:eight: Helpline 0303 003 1111

Adult Social Services Call 03000 41 61 61 during office hours, or 03000 41 91 91 outside office hours for emergencies. E-mail social.services@kent.gov.uk

Childrens' Social Services Call 03000 41 11 11 during office hours, or 03000 41 91 91 outside office hours for emergencies. E-mail social.services@kent.gov.uk

Police Protection Team Call 101 and ask to speak to someone in the Child Abuse Investigation Unit.