

## **Consultation Paper approved by the Trustees of South Wales Area Meeting (Society of Friends) – Draft Policy for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

### Principles:

1. The AM shall follow the BYM 'Meeting Safety' Policy (2009) and subsequent amendments and additions. We shall take into account advice received from:
  - Quaker Life
  - the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service
  - the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding (which processes Criminal Records Bureau checks)
  - the Welsh Assembly Government (especially that set out in the document *Safe from Harm: safeguarding children in voluntary and community organisations in Wales*, 2007)
  - the Charity Commission.
2. The AM shall maintain our membership of the CCPAS and take account of guidance they issue.
3. The AM shall appoint a Safeguarding Officer to keep us abreast of existing legal requirements and new ones as they arise.
4. The AM shall appoint Children and Young People's Advocates and ensure they have adequate support.
5. The AM shall ensure that each Local Meeting has considered how the AM policy applies to them - whether they need to make specific plans to cater for the local situation – and ensure that there is a contact person in each of our Local Meetings.
6. AM Trustees shall take responsibility for taking the lead in the matter of safeguarding but shall consult Elders and Overseers and the AM Nominations Committee and other Friends – as well indeed as the whole AM – as appropriate.

### Specifics – Nominations and Appointments

#### **A. The Area Meeting shall develop a recruitment policy for appointments to work with children and young people and vulnerable adults.**

(Cf the CCPAS Standard 3 re Safer Recruitment.)

*Trustees need to discuss – perhaps with Elders and Overseers – how it is best to progress this step. Appropriately modified 'yellow forms' might help. All Friends need to feel involved in agreeing and implementing the policy.*

NOTE – re nominations and applications processes

"The nominations process discerns that we wish to ask someone to serve in a particular way. The application process is different, it can be used to determine that someone has the necessary skills, approach and attributes to undertake the task. Both processes can be used, each as a check on the other." (Advice received from Michael Booth, Quaker Life, 7 January 2011)

### Specifics – Involvement of Parents in Work with their Children in Meetings

The CCPAS gives advice about parents/carers staying with children's groups (Standard 5 Paragraph 16):

**Consultation Paper approved by the Trustees of South Wales Area Meeting (Society of Friends) – Draft Policy for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

“There may be occasions where parents ask if they can stay to watch the children's group's activity. It is important not to appear guarded but there may be concerns, particularly where the expectation is that all adults who work with children in any capacity should undertake Criminal Records Bureau and other checks.”

*South Wales Friends need to ask themselves whether indeed our expectation is indeed that all adult Friends involved should undertake these checks. The answer should be, 'yes'.*

**B. The AM recommends that all adults who regularly or frequently participate in work with our children and young people should undertake checks (including a CRB check) on their suitability.**

NOTE - advice from Michael Booth of Quaker Life (received 16 August 2010)

“I would comment that if it is only parents who are looking after their children, then it will be harder for the parents to experience a Meeting for Worship, it also restricts any child visitors who come with their parents from taking part in the children's activity, as one of their parents would need to remain out of the meeting to accompany them.

If a meeting relies on the parents, then does it make sure that the parents know enough about Quakerism to impart their knowledge to the children effectively?

I have read another e-mail today of an Area Meeting that has arranged for two Friends from every meeting to have CRB checks so that they can be ready to hold a children's meeting if required.

I know that many Friends are put off by the bureaucracy of obtaining CRB checks – however, when compared with the bureaucracy of driving (applying for a driving licence, applying for a test, passing a test, let alone taxing, insuring and maintaining any vehicles owned) it pales into insignificance.”

DRH  
For SWAM Trustees  
27.01.11  
Format slightly modified 3.10.11