

Working with Adults in their own homes

This good practice guidance is intended for those working in roles that involve visiting adults (who may or may not be vulnerable) in their own homes on behalf of the church. This includes visiting adults who reside in residential/care homes.

Suggested safeguards:

- Visits should always be made by two adults unrelated to each other, unless all safeguarding checks have been completed and remain valid for a lone visitor.
- Wherever possible, carry a mobile phone on a home visit, and ensure that someone knows where you are and when you are expected to return.
- Wherever possible avoid calling unannounced – call by arrangement, if appropriate telephoning the person just before going.
- If not known to the person you are visiting, carry identification and/or a note of introduction from the church.
- Always knock on the door before entering a room or home, respecting the person's home and possessions.
- As a general principle, don't give your home phone number or address. Instead, where possible, leave information about a central contact point – for example your chaplaincy office.
- Be clear about boundaries – keep to agreed limits on how much time you will spend with someone and how often you visit.
- Be clear about what behaviour is and is not acceptable from the vulnerable adult.
- Always consider your own vulnerability before visiting someone in their own home. If there are any concerns or risks known before the visit is undertaken, give careful consideration to whether the visit is absolutely necessary, or whether you should be accompanied by another adult. When informally assessing risk be aware of the location you are visiting, any other people who may be present at the property, any pets, environmental hazards or other potential risks to your safety.

If you are uncertain or require further advice, guidance or support please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

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