

The 3 Pillars feeding the homeless Trust – A Masonic Charity

**Founders: W Bro Mick Pescod and W Bro Ged Dempsey – Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire
Charity Registered Number - 1173518**

Safeguarding Policy – Three Pillars feeding the homelessness and supporting the local community

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The nature of Three Pillars means that we meet people from the local community who are what might be people who are classed as vulnerable or at risk.

It is important that we do not put ourselves in a position where we might become vulnerable ourselves, this means that we do not work alone.

However, where there is a need for someone to have a more private conversation with a member of the team this should only be with either an experienced lead volunteer or medical volunteer. In this situation it is the policy that whoever is having the conversation should either inform one of the Trustees or the Leader on that evening that is going to take place, and that it should take place within a private area away from other people so it can be private, but still within full view of other volunteers.

As a volunteer group we limit our services to making sure a person has food, clothing, and essentials and of course the all-important listening ear. We will always signpost people to the relevant services that can assist with their journey from street to home. Further information to help facilitate this can be gained from the Trustees or Leader on that evening and can be found on the appropriate local authority website.

It is not the role of the Charity to find homes for or contact family members of any homeless person we meet.

We call the people we meet our Friends; however, they are not our personal friends and at all times we maintain a safe distance and not get involved with them either personally and digitally (social media).

We do not hand out belts, razor blades (unless they are safety razors) or any medications/ supplies to the people we support. We do not hand our own money, cigarettes or anything containing alcohol.

Reporting a safeguarding concern

If a volunteer is at all concerned, they must tell their concern to either Jo or Aaron who will either report the concern to churches safeguarding officer or contact the appropriate services for help.

In an emergency 999

Non-medical emergency 111

Mental health emergency 111 option 2

Safeguarding adults - Adult social services - West Northamptonshire – for an adult
children's report a concern – for a child

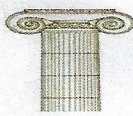
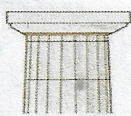
The 3 Pillars – Feeding the homeless

A Masonic registered charity number 1173518

The Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire

Website: [www. http://the3pillarsfeedingthehomelesstrust.com](http://the3pillarsfeedingthehomelesstrust.com)

Contact: W Bro Ged Dempsey 07748 100100 email: gtdempsey@hotmail.com



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Further information from Local or County Council Website

The definition of an adult at risk is when a local authority has a reason to believe that an adult in its area (whether ordinarily a resident or not) is:

- in need of care or support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).
- experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- as a result of those needs unable to protect themselves against the abuse, neglect, or the risk of it.

You may want to refer to [The Care Act 2014](#) or [NHS guidance on different forms of abuse and neglect](#), which are wide ranging, before reporting a concern.

Consent

When reporting a concern, you may need to gain the consent of the person involved, but this is not always possible. This is also known as a person's 'capacity' to understand what is happening.

The Mental Capacity Act states to have capacity a person must be able to:

- understand the information that is relevant to the decision they want to make.
- retain the information long enough to be able to make the decision.
- weigh up the information available to make the decision.
- communicate their decision by any possible means, including talking, using sign language, or through simple muscle movements such as blinking an eye or squeezing a hand.

If you are still unsure what capacity is, or what it means, you can read a longer [explanation of capacity \(PDF 468KB\)](#).

More detail on the Mental Capacity Act can be found in the [code of practice document \(PDF 952KB\)](#).

<https://www.nctrust.co.uk/help-and-protection-for-children/Pages/report-a-concern.aspx>

Field Working:

When operating in remote (outside location) volunteers are not allowed to work or operate on their own a minimum 2 and if possible should be onsite at all times

G. T. Dempsey

Ged Dempsey - Trustee of the 3 Pillars-Feeding the Homeless

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The 3 Pillars – Dunstable

Safeguarding Local Addendum

Adopted: 26 February 2026

This document operates alongside the HQ Safeguarding Policy of The 3 Pillars – Feeding the Homeless (Charity No. 1173518).

1. Adoption of HQ Policy

3 Pillars – Dunstable formally adopts the HQ Safeguarding Policy in full. This addendum does not replace the HQ policy but provides local reporting contacts and operational clarification relevant to the Dunstable branch.

2. Local Safeguarding Responsibilities

Branch Safeguarding Officer: **Gurjeet Singh Malhotra**

Branch Lead: Simon Barter

All volunteers must report any safeguarding concern immediately to the Branch Safeguarding Officer. If unavailable, concerns must be reported to the Branch Lead, who will escalate appropriately.

3. Reporting Pathway

Volunteer → Branch Safeguarding Officer → HQ Safeguarding Contact (if required)

In cases of immediate danger or medical emergency, call 999.

For non-emergency police matters, call 101.

Local Authority (Central Bedfordshire Council):

Adult Safeguarding: 0300 300 8122

Children's Services: 0300 300 8585

Out of Hours: 0300 300 8123

4. Operational Safeguarding Controls

- A minimum of two volunteers must be present at all times.
- No lone working is permitted.
- Private conversations must take place within sight of other volunteers.
- Volunteers must not provide personal contact details, money, medication, alcohol, or engage in personal relationships with service users.



5. Record Keeping

Any safeguarding concern must be recorded in writing and provided to the Branch Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible. Records will be handled confidentially and shared only with appropriate safeguarding authorities or HQ trustees where necessary.

6. Review

This addendum will be reviewed annually or sooner if operational changes occur.

Approved by:

Simon Barter

Branch Chairman – The 3 Pillars – Dunstable

Approval Date: 26 February 2026