

WHO TO CONTACT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Fortunately, the occasions when an emergency safeguarding issue will arise are very few. However, when something happens that requires an immediate response, it is important that the correct action is taken and the right people are contacted.

If you believe that a child, young person or a vulnerable adult is at immediate risk of harm or abuse you should contact one of the statutory services – either police or social work services.

Police Scotland can be contacted by telephoning 999 and asking for the police or by telephoning the non-emergency number 101, and advising the operator that it is an urgent child or adult protection matter. More information on contacting the police is available on the Police Scotland Website – www.scotland.police.uk – and there is a postcode search facility on the homepage that will provide you with details of your local policing team.

The local social work services number will depend on where you are but all local authorities offer both an in-hours and out-of-hours service for both child and adult protection services. The WithScotland Website – www.withscotland.org/public - provides a search facility using your postcode which will provide you with the relevant local information.

It is good practice to have the local emergency and non-emergency contact numbers displayed prominently in the Church so that valuable time is not lost searching for the relevant numbers.

REMEMBER – IN THE EVENT OF A REAL EMERGENCY, ALWAYS CONTACT THE POLICE BY DIALLING 999