

Vulnerable Adults and Transport

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired.

Some of the factors which increase vulnerability are:

- A sensory or physical disability or impairment
- A learning disability
- A physical illness
- Mental ill health (including dementia), chronic or acute
- An addiction to alcohol or drugs
- Domestic abuse

Good practice for transport:

- Lifts arranged by adults among themselves are a private matter and not the concern of the church.
- Lifts arranged by the church, whether using existing pastoral care workers or a special team of drivers, are a church responsibility. Drivers need to be safely recruited. Carers should be consulted as appropriate.
- All cars that carry vulnerable adults must be comprehensively insured. The insured person must make sure that their insurance covers the giving of lifts during church activities. They must inform their insurance company that lifts may be given. There are separate requirements governing minibuses.
- If lifts are also provided to the GP, hospital appointments or adult social care facilities this is regulated activity and attracts a DBS check with barring information.