

HCC Workplace Stress Policy



Policy Statement

1. Huntingdonshire Community Church (HCC) is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of our employees and volunteers. We recognise that workplace stress is a health and safety issue and acknowledge the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors.
2. This policy will apply to everyone in the Church.
3. Managers are responsible for implementation and the Church is responsible for providing the necessary resources.

Definition of Stress

4. The Health and Safety Executive define stress as “the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure or other types of demand placed on them”. This makes an important distinction between pressure, which can be a positive state if managed correctly, and stress which can be detrimental to health.

HCC Will:

5. Identify all workplace stressors and conduct risk assessments to eliminate stress or control the risks from stress. These risk assessments will be regularly reviewed.
6. Consult with staff and volunteers on all proposed actions relating to the prevention of workplace stress.
7. Provide training for all managers and supervisory staff in good management practices.
8. Provide confidential counselling for staff affected by stress caused by either work or external factors.
9. Provide adequate resources to enable managers to implement the Church’s agreed stress management strategy.

Responsibilities

10. Managers

- Conduct and implement recommendations of risks assessments within their jurisdiction
- Ensure good communication between management and staff, particularly where there are organisational and procedural changes
- Ensure staff are fully trained to discharge their duties
- Ensure staff are provided with meaningful developmental opportunities
- Monitor workloads to ensure that people are not overloaded
- Monitor working hours, overtime and holidays to ensure that staff are not overworking, and are taking their full holiday entitlement
- Attend training as requested in good management practice and health and safety

- Ensure that bullying and harassment is not tolerated within their jurisdiction
- Be vigilant and offer additional support to a member of staff who is experiencing stress outside work, eg bereavement or separation

11. **Senior Leader**

- Provide specialist advice and awareness training on stress
- Train and support managers in implementing stress risk assessments
- Support individuals who have been off sick with stress and advise them and their management on a planned return to work
- Refer to workplace counsellors or specialist agencies as required
- Monitor and review the effectiveness of measures to reduce stress
- Inform the Church and the Health and Safety Committee of any changes and developments in the field of stress at work

12. **Trustee/Senior Leader's Responsibilities**

- Give guidance to managers on the stress policy
- Help monitor the effectiveness of measures to address stress by collating sickness absence statistics
- Advise managers and individuals on training requirements
- Provide continuing support to managers and individuals in a changing environment and encourage referral to occupational workplace counsellors where appropriate.

13. **Employees**

- Raise issues of concern with your Safety Representative, line manager or Trustees.
- Accept opportunities for counselling when recommended.