Community Care Policy

Adopted by the elders on February 25 2020

A Caring Community, Caring for our Community.

Our Model for community Care is Community. We believe that Community is the best context and vehicle for both caring for others and being cared for by others. It also means that we don't put up any borders around who we should be caring for. We care for people both Christian and not-yet Christian, part of South Coast Life Church and not-yet part of South Coast Life Church.

Connect groups and ministry teams are our primary places for people to give and receive care. One of the key responsibilities of Connect group and Ministry team leaders is to provide and/or co-ordinate caring for people in their groups.

There are four main ways we care for people; (Please also see attached BCC Community Care Framework.)

1. We Listen – We encourage people within our church to listen for signs of people needing help and to either reach out and help or communicate needs to Pastors.

2. We Ask – We ask people whom we discern are in need of some help if they do and what it is that they would most appreciate help with. We do not presume that they need what we think they need.

3. We Empower – Our Community Care team seek as much as possible to empower people closest to the people in need of care, to care. As much as possible our heart is for Community Care to be everyone's ministry. Empowering includes (but not limited to) personally supporting carers during difficult times and helping to plug carers into the ministries of the church and other care organisations and facilities in the community.

4. We Respond – We have three main ways that we Care for people;

a. Prayer – we can plug people into the prayer team (see BCC Prayer policy for what this looks like and how prayer happens at BCC)
b. Presence – we can arrange for a carer to meet with and listen to people who need it.
c. Practical – We can offer where appropriate practical help such as meals, or lifts or help around the house. This will mostly be offered short term. For people requiring long term practical support we will work with them to access help from community based support services and networks.

Carers are to follow safe church procedures as outlined in the BCC Safe Church policy. If they are will be regularly meeting with vulnerable people we encourage them to provide a NSW Working with Children number and details and attend a Safe spaces course accredited with the Baptist association of NSW and ACT.

Carers who are providing transport to people in need;

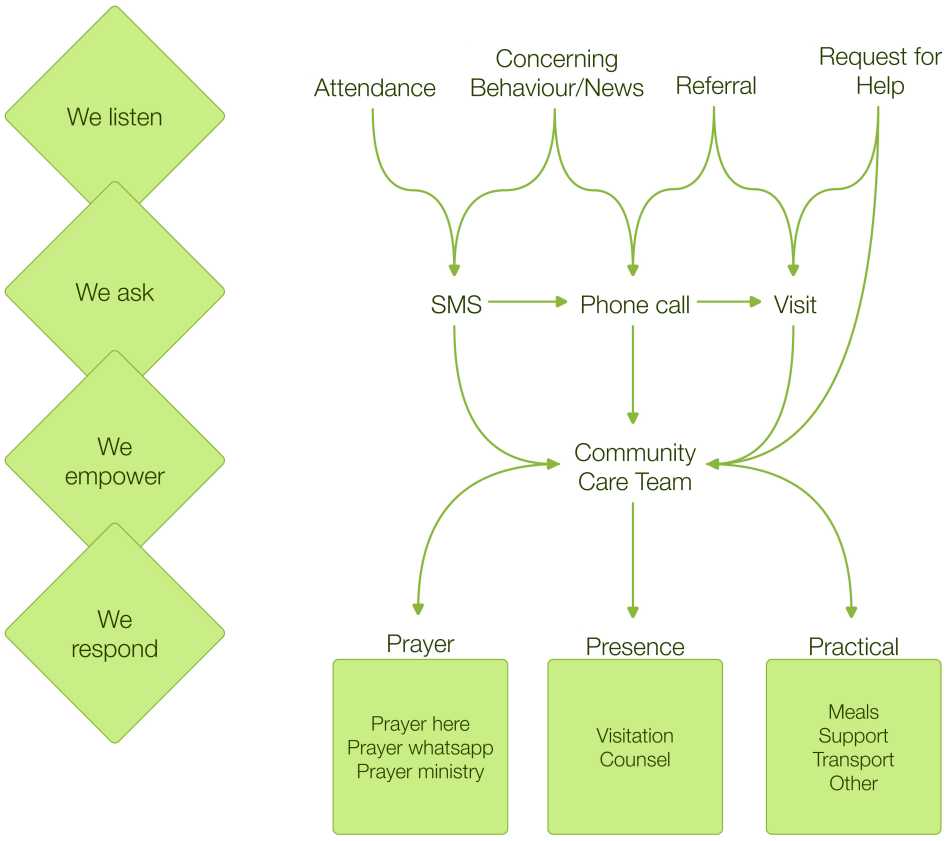
- A full Drivers Licence
- To fill out and hand in a Registered Driver form
- To go on the BCC approved driver register.
- To only drive cars that are registered and carry full personal injury insurance (CTP).

It is the responsibility of the carer to keep their insurances up to date and their details on the BCC driver register up to date.

Carers will have approval from a representative of the elders to care for people on behalf of South Coast Life Church. Each activity will have a Safe Work Practice written and signed off on by carers fulfilling this activity. These SWPs will be approved also by the South Coast Life Church Elders.

There is (will be) a list of approved carers and also a (will be) list of approved activities that people can conduct on behalf of South Coast Life Church. Carers on the 'Carers list' are approved by the Elders to perform activities on the 'Approved Community Care Activities list'.

Community Care Framework



All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts…

Acts 2:44-46