

# The Safeguarding Policy

## SECTION 1

### Details of the place of worship / organisation

Name of Place of Worship / Organisation:

Faithlife church

Address: Arbor Grange  
Babraham Rd  
Cambridge  
CB223AY

Tel No: 01223 242908

Email address: [office@Faithlifechurch.org.uk](mailto:office@Faithlifechurch.org.uk)

Membership of Denomination/Organisation: Partners in Harvest

Charity Number: 1114208

Insurance Company: Access Insurance policy: CHF 2179108 Ref: 1964690

The following is a brief description of our place of worship / organisation and the type of work / activities we undertake with children / vulnerable adults:

We run activities for 3-15year olds during our church service on Sunday mornings. These activities take place in age related groups on the same premises as the adults are meeting and last for approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours.

There are also mid-week or weekend extra activities – these events are open to the children of the members of the church and their friends.

## Our commitment

As a Leadership we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to “all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”. We also concur with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child.” As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on the ten **Safe and Secure** safeguarding standards published by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)

The Leadership undertakes to:

- endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
- provide on-going safeguarding training for all its workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.
- ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.
- support the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and vulnerable adults.
- The Leadership agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

## SECTION 2

# Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse

## Understanding abuse and neglect

Defining child abuse or abuse against a vulnerable adult is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. Children and adults in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or in a trusted relationship with the child or vulnerable adult.

In order to safeguard those in our places of worship and organisations we adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 19 which states:

*1. Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*

*2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.*

Also, for adults the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular reference to Article 5 which states:

*No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*

Detailed definitions, and signs and symptoms of abuse, as well as how to respond to a disclosure of abuse, are included here in our policy.

The four definitions of abuse below operate in England based on the government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)'.

### **What is abuse and neglect?**

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by

inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

### **Physical abuse**

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

### **Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

### **Sexual abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

### **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### **Signs and symptoms of abuse**

The following signs could be indicators that abuse has taken place but should be considered in context of the child's whole life.

#### **Physical**

- Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries that occur in places not normally exposed to falls, rough games, etc
- Injuries that have not received medical attention

- Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming
- Repeated urinary infections or unexplained tummy pains
- Bruises on babies, bites, burns, fractures etc which do not have an accidental explanation\*
- Cuts/scratches/substance abuse\*

### **Sexual**

- Any allegations made concerning sexual abuse
- Excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour
- Age-inappropriate sexual activity through words, play or drawing
- Child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams or nightmares, sometimes with overt or veiled sexual connotations
- Eating disorders - anorexia, bulimia\*

### **Emotional**

- Changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clinging.
- Depression, aggression, extreme anxiety.
- Nervousness, frozen watchfulness
- Obsessions or phobias
- Sudden under-achievement or lack of concentration
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Persistent tiredness
- Running away/stealing/lying

### **Neglect**

- Under nourishment, failure to grow, constant hunger, stealing or gorging food, Untreated illnesses,
- Inadequate care, etc

\*These indicate the possibility that a child or young person is self-harming. Approximately 20,000 are treated in accident and emergency departments in the UK each year.

## **How to respond to a child wishing to disclose abuse**

### **Effective Listening**

Ensure the physical environment is welcoming, giving opportunity for the child or vulnerable adult to talk in private but making sure others are aware the conversation is taking place.

- It is especially important to allow time and space for the person to talk
- Above everything else listen without interrupting
- Be attentive and look at them whilst they are speaking
- Show acceptance of what they say (however unlikely the story may sound) by reflecting back words or short phrases they have used
- Try to remain calm, even if on the inside you are feeling something different
- Be honest and don't make promises you can't keep regarding confidentiality
- If they decide not to tell you after all, accept their decision but let them know that you are always ready to listen.
- Use language that is age appropriate and, for those with disabilities, ensure there is someone available who understands sign language, Braille etc.

### **HELPFUL RESPONSES**

- You have done the right thing in telling
- I am glad you have told me
- I will try to help you

### **DON'T SAY**

- Why didn't you tell anyone before?
- I can't believe it!
- Are you sure this is true?
- Why? How? When? Who? Where?
- I am shocked, don't tell anyone else

## **Safeguarding awareness**

The Leadership is committed to on-going safeguarding training and development opportunities for all workers, developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect everyone. All our workers will receive induction training and undertake recognised safeguarding training on a regular basis provided internally by the safe-guarding Coordinator.

The Leadership will also ensure that children and vulnerable adults are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

## **RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE**

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. Follow procedures as below:

- The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to Olive Bostock (hereafter the "Safeguarding Co-ordinator") tel no: 01223 362068 or 07427 679042 who is nominated by the Leadership to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- In the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, then the report should be made to Joe Pinnock, tel. no. \*\*\* or Sherryll Baines (hereafter the "Deputies ") tel no: 01223 242908 If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the Deputies, then the report should be made in the first instance to Thirtyone-eight (formerly known as the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0845 120 4550. Alternatively contact Social Services or the police.
- Where the concern is about a child the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should contact Children's Social Services. Where the concern is regarding an adult in need of protection contact Adult Social Services or take advice from Thirtyone-eight as above.

The local Children's Social Services office telephone number (office hours) is 0345 045 5203  
The out of hours emergency number is 01733 234724

The local Adult Social Services office telephone number (office hours) is 0345 045 5202  
The out of hours emergency number is 01733 234724.

The Police Child Protection Team telephone number is 101

- Where required the Safeguarding Co-ordinator should then immediately inform the insurance company and other strategic personnel within the denomination - Mark Baines tel no: 01223 242908
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Deputy should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from Thirtyone-eight.
- The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy in their role and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone-eight, although the Leadership hope that members of the place of worship / organisation will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrate its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the safeguarding co-ordinator/ deputy is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

### **Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:**

### **ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, NEGLECT OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact Children's Social Services (or Thirtyone-eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.

- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Services direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by Thirtyone-eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

## **ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by Thirtyone-eight if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Services/Police. Thirtyone-eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

**The following procedure will be followed where there is a concern that an adult is in need of protection:**

## **SUSPICIONS OR ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE**

If a vulnerable adult has a physical injury or symptom of sexual abuse the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Discuss any concerns with the individual themselves giving due regard to their autonomy, privacy and rights to lead an independent life.
- If the vulnerable adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.

- For advice contact the Adult Social Care Vulnerable Adults Team who have responsibility under Section 47 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and government guidance, 'No Secrets', to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively, Thirtyone-eight can be contacted for advice.

## **ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST A PERSON WHO WORKS WITH CHILDREN**

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will need to liaise with Children's Social Services in regard to the suspension of the worker, also making a referral to a Safeguarding Adviser (SA) / Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

### **SECTION 3**

## **Prevention**

### **Safe recruitment**

The Leadership will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with government guidance on safe recruitment. For those employed by the church this includes ensuring that:

- There is a written job description / person specification for the post
- Those applying have completed an application form and a self declaration form
- Those short listed have been interviewed
- Safeguarding has been discussed at interview
- Written references have been obtained, and followed up where appropriate
- A disclosure and barring check has been completed (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information)
- Qualifications where relevant have been verified
- A suitable training programme is provided for the successful applicant
- The applicant has completed a probationary period
- The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.

For those working as volunteers this includes:

- Those applying have completed an application form and a self declaration form
- A disclosure and barring check has been completed (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information)
- A suitable training programme is provided for the successful applicant
- The applicant has completed a probationary period
- The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.

## **Management of Workers – Codes of Conduct**

As a Leadership we are committed to supporting all workers and ensuring they receive support and supervision. All workers have been issued with a code of conduct towards children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Leadership undertakes to follow the principles found within the 'Abuse of Trust' guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

### **Code of conduct**

Workers agree to follow the church's code of conduct. We endorse and promote a culture of dignity and respect towards those being cared for. This can be achieved by workers:

- understanding the organisation's safeguarding policy and good working practice
- listening to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- respecting boundaries and privacy of those being cared for
- knowing how to deal with issues of discipline in line within the organisation's code of conduct
- developing an awareness of disability issues as well as issues of equality and inclusion
- following good practice guidelines in relation to touch, behaviour and discipline as set out in the good practice guidelines contained in section 5 of this policy

## SECTION 4

# Pastoral Care

## Supporting those affected by abuse

The Leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the place of worship / organisation.

This will be arranged by the leaders of the church Mark and Sherryll Baines

## Working with offenders

When someone attending the place of worship / organisation is known to have abused children or is known to be a risk to vulnerable adults the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

## SECTION 5

# Practice Guidelines

As an organisation / place of worship working with children, young people and vulnerable adults we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false accusation.

As well as a general code of conduct for workers we also have good practice guidelines for the activities we are involved in and these are attached.

### Good Practice guidelines

Workers will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect in attitude, language and actions.
- Consider the number of workers needed to run the group and whether they should be male, female or both.
- Have a clear strategy for summoning additional help (if needed) in situations where a worker is working alone with a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Use the level of personal care (e.g. toileting) required appropriate to the needs of the individual.
- Know the guidelines on personal privacy e.g. when working with children avoiding questionable activity such as rough or sexually provocative games and comments.
- Not allow anyone under 16 years of age to be left in charge of children of any age or those attending the group being left unsupervised.
- Make sure that only workers assigned to the group are allowed to participate in the activity. Other adults should not be allowed free access.
- Make note of other people in the building during the activity and any other events taking place at the same time.
- Be aware that taking care of children, young people and vulnerable adults involves taking responsibility for their well-being at all times, being prepared for unforeseen eventualities, anticipating situations where they could be harmed and taking steps to minimise the risks. Workers understand that they have a responsibility to assess the risk involved in the activities that are provided. This can include an informal check before the start of an activity that the building is safe and that the planned activities have been assessed for any risks. The following are some areas that should be considered: Identification of hazards/ Consider who might be harmed and how this might happen/ Assess the risks and take action to remove or reduce them as far as possible/ Record details of the action taken. In a building the following may be considered hazardous: loose-fitting carpets, uneven floors, over-filled cupboards, very high shelves, blocked fire exits, glass doors, missing light bulbs, overloaded power points, trailing electrical cables, loose window fastenings.

- Write any accidents into the accident book and inform parents/carers
- Parents/carers of new members to groups will be asked to fill in a registration form providing contact details and information about allergies/medical conditions.
- Parents will be asked to sign a general consent form that allows them to choose which activities they are happy for their child to participate in.

### Taking Care of Touching

- Keep everything public. A hug in the context of a group is very different from a hug behind closed doors.
- Touch should be related to the child, young person or vulnerable adults needs, not the worker's.
- Touch should be age-appropriate and generally initiated by the child, young person or vulnerable adult, rather than the worker.
- Avoid any physical activity that may be sexually stimulating.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults are entitled to personal privacy and the right to decide how much physical contact they have with others, except in circumstances such as a medical emergency.
- When giving first aid (or applying sun cream etc), encourage the child, young person or vulnerable adult to do what they can themselves but, in their best interests giving appropriate help where necessary.
- Team members should monitor one another in the area of physical contact. They should be free to help each other by constructively challenging anything which could be misunderstood or misconstrued.
- Concerns about abuse should always be reported.

### Guidelines for discipline

- Do not compare a child, young person or adult with another in the group; rather encourage and affirm and, if possible, give them responsibility for appropriate tasks.
- Build healthy relationships and be a good role model by setting an example. You can't expect others to observe the ground rules if you break them yourself.
- Take care to give the quieter and/or well-behaved attention and resist allowing the demanding individuals to take all your time and energy.
- Be consistent in what you say and ensure that other team members know what you have said. This avoids manipulation.
- If children and young people are bored they often misbehave, so review your programme regularly.
- **NEVER** smack or hit anyone and don't shout. Change voice tone if necessary.
- Call on support from other leaders if you feel so angry you may deal with the situation unwisely.
- Lay down ground rules e.g. no swearing, racism or calling each other names, respect for property, and make sure everyone understands what action will be taken if not adhered to.

- Every person is unique and will respond in different ways to different forms of discipline. It follows therefore each child should be dealt with on an individual basis.

For those who are continuously disruptive:

- Have them sit right in front of you or get a helper to sit next to them.
- Encourage helpers to be pro-active rather than waiting to be told to deal with a situation.
- Challenge them to change their behaviour whilst encouraging their strengths.
- Warn them you may speak to their parents/carers about their behaviour, they may be sent outside the room (under supervision), be banned from attending the group for a period of time.

## **Behaviour guidelines**

The following guidelines are our expectation of how children should behave in order for the group to be able to function successfully. These rules are for the safety and happiness of all the children in the group.

The children will:

1. Listen to and follow the instructions of the workers.
2. Not hit/kick or any other physical hurt towards another child.
3. Not name call or tease.
4. Not run around or climb on furniture.
5. Treat each other and other people's belongings with care and respect

The children are encouraged, but not forced to join in all activities. If they choose to opt out of a given activity, they will be expected not to distract or disrupt the other children

The workers will:

1. Use praise and other forms of positive reinforcement to encourage involvement and appropriate behaviour.
2. Provide a variety of activities during the course of a session.
3. Treat all children fairly, consistently and with respect.
4. Discuss any persistent difficulties with parents.

## **Discipline Policy**

As a church we aim to see each child as an individual and to treat any issues that may arise with sensitivity and understanding.

All children's workers should treat all children and young people with dignity and respect at all times.

Workers are aware that physical punishment must never be used.

Workers are encouraged not to shout at children or to use words that could belittle a child.

All parents and children will be made aware of the behaviour guidelines of their child's group.

Where a child is disregarding the behaviour guidelines in their group and does not respond to the workers instructions in this area, the child's parents will be called to remove the child from that session. Serious issues that incur this response will then be discussed with the parents with a view to helping the child participate successfully in the group.

## **Lost Child Policy**

Every effort is made to ensure the 'safety of your child during Kids Church. This policy sets out our procedures for maintaining safety and dealing with the unlikely event of a child going missing.

- Premises will be thoroughly searched by Children's workers
- Children's Worker to inform Child's parents
- Children's Worker to contact as many volunteers as possible to assist in the search
- Remainder of Children's Worker to carry on with session as normal so as not to alarm other children

Good communication is essential in promoting safeguarding, both to those we wish to protect, to everyone involved in working with children and vulnerable adults and to all those with whom we work in partnership. This safeguarding policy is just one means of promoting safeguarding.

**Signed by:**

**Position: Pastor Faithlife Church**

**Signed by:**

**Position: Safe-guarding Coordinator**

**Date: March 2018**

## APPENDIX 1

### Leadership Safeguarding Statement

The Faithlife Leadership (Mark Baines, Sherryll Baines, Roger Bostock, Olive Bostock) recognises the importance of its ministry /work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the leadership/organisation on: 21.3.19

This place of worship/organisation is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.

#### **We are committed to:**

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.

- Following any denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.
- Supporting parents and families
  - Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people
  - Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

### **We recognise:**

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to our agency's headquarters.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

### **We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.**

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

Olive Bostock Child Safeguarding Coordinator

Joe Pinnock Deputy Child Safeguarding Coordinator

Sherryl Baines Deputy Child Safeguarding Coordinator

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from the Faithlife church office

Signed by leadership/organisation

Signed

Date March 2019

# Safeguarding is a priority here

**We are committed to following government and CCPAS guidelines on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good working practice, including safe recruitment of workers.**

We work to a formal safeguarding policy and it can be seen on request from:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a child you can speak to:

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a vulnerable adult you can speak to:

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

They have been appointed by the leadership to respond to any safeguarding concerns.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*On behalf of the Leadership*

## Useful Contacts

CCPAS  
0845 120 45 50

Childline (for children)  
0800 1111

NSPCC  
0808 800 5000

Stop it Now  
0808 1000 900

Through the Roof  
01372 749955

Action on Elder Abuse  
0808 808 8141

Childnet Int  
[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

CEOP  
[ceop.police.uk](http://ceop.police.uk)

NAPAC  
020 3176 0560

