



THFC PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

Date Written: 02/02/2021 v.1

Author: Mark Taylor (Safeguarding Lead & Elder)

Date Updated: N/A

The Leadership at Turners Hill Free Church 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 on:

- This place of worship is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk of harm and abuse and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- 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 experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk 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-ordinators in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/adults at risk.
- 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 Thirty-one eight (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service).

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.

- 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.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy annually.

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

Mark Taylor (Safeguarding Co-Ordinator)

Peter James (Deputy Safeguarding Co-Ordinator)

A copy of this place of worship's policy can be seen by the **entrance of the front of the church hall**. Alternatively, an electronic version can be supplied upon request.

Signed by leadership:

Signed: Mark Taylor

Date: 03/02/2022

Signed: Peter James

Date: 03/02/2022