



Coach House Church

Safeguarding Policy

SECTION 1

The Coach House Church

222 Wellington Road North, Heaton Chapel, Stockport SK4 2QN

Contact details: **0161 432 5604**

Safeguarding: **0759 0585 5965**

Email: safeguarding@coachhousechurch.org

Insurance Company: **Public Liability Insurance with Congregational**

The Coach House Church is a bible believing church, who love and serve Jesus Christ. We are warm and welcoming friendly church which is committed to praising God by holding bible studies for children and adults; children club for fun times with games, craft and short bible story; events and day trips to have fellowship together.

Our commitment

At The Coach House Church we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the 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." The Coach House Church 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.

At The Coach House Church we undertake to:

- Endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.



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- 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 Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.

SECTION 2

Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse

Understanding abuse and neglect

Defining child abuse or abuse against an 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 adult.

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

- 1. States 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.*

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



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Recognising signs and symptoms of abuse

Physical – actual or likely physical injury to a child, young person or vulnerable adult or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering).

Symptoms – unexplained injuries, or those that have not received medical attention, hidden injuries, signs of neglect.

Sexual – actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, e.g. grooming.

Symptoms – disclosures made by child, young person or vulnerable adult with references to sexual matters, e.g. words, pictures and actions.

Emotional – actual or likely adverse effect on the emotional and behavioural development of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, e.g. recognising signs of radicalisation.

Symptoms – regression in behaviour, nervousness.

Neglect – the persistent or severe neglect of a child, young person or vulnerable adult or the failure to protect them from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation.

Symptoms – poor hygiene, cleanliness, dirty clothes and hunger.

N.B In any case of abuse some common symptoms include a child, young person or vulnerable adult's change in behaviour, e.g. regression, attention seeking, stealing, lying, displaying violent behaviour, nervousness of adult attention, hunger or poor hygiene. Physical abuse and neglect are difficult to hide, whilst sexual abuse is difficult to prove. Many symptoms of distress can point to abuse but there may be other explanations. It is important, therefore, that the above signs are not taken as indications that abuse has taken place. They should make us stop and think, but not jump to conclusions.

Responding appropriately to a disclosure or suspicion of abuse

The normal rule of confidentiality cannot be observed when abuse is disclosed or suspected. It must be passed on through the following channels:

- A worker should not carry out their own investigation but record the concern/incident/disclosure. They must include date, time, what happened and transcribe as accurately as they can what was said.
- To minimise distress for the child, young person or vulnerable adult, care should be taken not to probe for details. Only ask questions to clarify what has already been disclosed. Do not ask questions or ask them to repeat what they have said.
- This record must be given to the safeguarding officer – Alina Adshead or in her absence or because the disclosure implicates her, the deputy – Claire Bailey. The safeguarding co-ordinator or deputy must collate and clarify the precise details of



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the disclosure or suspicion of abuse before passing it on to Thirtyone:eight, Social Services or the Police.

- If the disclosure implicates both the safeguarding co-ordinator and deputy then the record should be made directly to Thirtyone:eight PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0303 003 1111 option 2. Email info@thirtyoneight.org
- Alternatively contact Stockport Adult and Children's Social Services on 0161 217 6028 during office hours or emergency out of hours 0161 718 2118.
- Any discloser or suspicion of abuse must not be spoken about with anyone other than those nominated above.
- The copy of the record/disclosure must be kept in a secure place.
- In the event of an allegation/suspicion of a member of The Coach House Church, the member will be suspended from working with children, young people or vulnerable adults. The safeguarding co-ordinator will need to liaise with Social Services.

SECTION 3

Prevention

At The Coach House Church we will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with government guidance on safe recruitment. This includes ensuring that:

- A copy of the Safeguarding policy and they know how to report any concerns
- DBS checked and approved
- Watched the 'Facing the Unthinkable' DVD



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SECTION 4

Care and Supporting those affected by abuse

At The Coach House Church we are committed to offering support and 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 specific services e.g. NSPCC etc.

Working with offenders

When someone attending The Coach House Church is known to have abused children, or is known to be a risk to adults with care and support needs Alina Adshead will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and adults with care and support needs, set boundaries for that person, which they will be expected to keep.

SECTION 5

Practice Guidelines

Members of the Church will arrange, as far as possible, that any adult is not left alone with a child, young person or vulnerable adult or where there is little or no opportunity of that activity being observed by others. This means groups will need to work in the same room or an adjoining room with the door open.

Members must not arrange to meet a child, young person or vulnerable adult off the premises without other adults being present.

At least one DBS adult will be present with a group, on or off the premises.

Parents in attendance should supervise their children under school age at all times to oversee their toileting and feeding needs, e.g. open days, parent and toddlers and drop in sessions.

A register of Sunday school children/young people will be taken at every session and this must be stored securely.

It is recognised that members will need to transport children, young people or vulnerable adults.

- Parents should always be informed that you are transporting their child/children.
- Seat belts must be worn at all times.
- Always inform other members which child/children are being transported.



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- Wherever possible travel with another adult, one being female and the other male.
- Use back seats first especially if there is only one child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In the case of special outings:

- Letters of permission must be sent to obtain written consent and up to date contact details e.g. mobile numbers.
- A register of children, young people or vulnerable adults will be taken and which members will be assigned to care for whom.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____



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APPENDIX - 1

Leadership Safeguarding Statement

At The Coach Church we recognise 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.

We are committed to creating and enabling a healthy culture in order to minimise any coercion and control within our church.

The following statement was agreed by the leadership on 19th October 2019.

This place of worship/organisation is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs 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 adults who have care and support needs and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery 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 adults with care and support needs.
- We believe in the necessity of creating a healthy culture in our church where the value of all people is recognised and challenges are responded to appropriately.



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We are committed to:

Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations.

- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinators in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/adults with care and support needs.
- Supporting parents and families.
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people.
- 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 an adult with care and support needs.
- 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.



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We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually

If you have any concerns for a child or adult with care and support needs then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for The Coach House Church.

Alina Adshead Safeguarding Co-ordinator – 07590585965

Claire Bailey Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator - 07772193899

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from Alina Adshead or Claire Bailey or any trustee of CHC.

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Date: _____



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