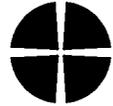


Hope Methodist Church

Linnetts Lane, Higham Ferrers



Nene Valley Circuit (23/23)

**Safeguarding Policy
for Children,
Young People &
Vulnerable Adults**

Approved and adopted

21/11/2012

(Reviewed Nov. 2016)

Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults

Introduction

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Statement of Intention

Hope Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

We recognise that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

We recognise the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognise that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Commitment

Hope Methodist Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

We commit ourselves to ensuring the implementation of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Hope Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

We affirm and give thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Church Safeguarding Representative

Hope Methodist Church appoints **Sally Hudson** as Church Safeguarding Representative for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and supports her in this role which is to:

- i) support all those in roles of responsibility, eg the stewards, in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the church with the support of the minister.

Purpose

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook 2010, copies of which are kept by the Minister and the Church Safeguarding Representative.

Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.

- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults and a risk assessment will be carried out annually. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate.
- v) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area. These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

Appointment and training of workers

Workers will be appointed after the appropriate DBS checks. Each worker will be expected to undergo the basic safeguarding training, usually within the first year of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered. (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc)

Pastoral visitors

In terms of safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training. Each Pastoral Visitor will keep a diary of any visits made and the times. They will also note any problems they feel they need to record which they will share with the Safeguarding Representative or Minister as appropriate.

Guidelines for working with children, young people & vulnerable adults

A leaflet will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with children, young people and vulnerable adults outlining good practice and systems. The leaflet will be reviewed annually with this policy.

Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events. Notification of the event will be given to **Sally Hudson**.

Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement will be given a copy of this policy and the leaflet. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings.

Complaints procedure

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council and who is currently **Sally Hudson**. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to **Sally Hudson** who will, with the support of the Minister, act as necessary.

Appendix 1

Key concepts and definitions

Vulnerable Adults: Any adult aged 18 or over, who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse and neglect. (Creating Safer Space 2016)

Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.

Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Contacts

Superintendent Minister	Rev. Margaret Eales	01933 312778
Named Person	Sally Hudson	01933 353878
Deputy Named Person	Rachael Newman	01933 386173
Childline	Weston House 42 Curtain Rd London EC2A 3NH	0800 1111
Children's Legal Centre	Advice line for anyone	08088 020 008
Methodist Church District Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Gill Crippen The Manse, Lansdowne, Bourton-on-the-Water CHELTENHAM G54 2AT	07967 362885
NSPCC	Helpline Advice	0808 800 5000
Local Social Services	Local Children's & Adult Services Out of hours	0300 126 1000 01604 626938
Local Police Child Protection	General enquiries	03000 111222