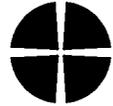


Hope Methodist Church

Linnetts Lane, Higham Ferrers



Nene Valley Circuit (23/23)

Guidelines for Working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

21/11/2012

(Reviewed Nov 2016)

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 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)

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.

Dealing with a child, young person or vulnerable adult who is making allegations of abuse

General points:

- Accept what they say
- Keep calm; do not appear to be shocked
- Be honest
- Let them know that you will need to tell someone else - don't promise confidentiality
- Be aware that the child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been threatened
- Make notes as soon as possible, writing down exactly what they said, including their name, age, address, relevant family information, and details of the situation and the activity that preceded disclosure
- Never push for information or question the individual

Helpful things to say:

- I believe you
- I am glad you have told me
- It's not your fault
- I will try to help you

Avoid saying:

- Why didn't you tell anyone before
- I can't believe it
- Are you sure this is true?
- Why? Who? How? When? Where?
- Never make false promises

Concluding:

- Again reassure them they were right to tell you and that you believe them
- Let them know what you are going to do next, and that you will let them know what happens
- Immediately refer to your Minister or another Minister in the Circuit