

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Leaside Church and Community Centre

The following statement has been agreed by the leadership of Leaside Church and Community Centre.



The church is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and to ensuring their well-being.

- We believe that all children and adults at risk should know that they are valued within the church and safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the church.
- We respect the personal dignity and rights of children and adults at risk (e.g. as set out in The Human Rights Act (1989) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) and will ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We recognize that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children under 18 years.
- We recognize that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk.
- We recognize that domestic abuse affects both adults and children and believe that domestic abuse in all forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with a Christian way of living.
- We will report any abuse of children and adults at risk that we discover or suspect
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed, the Police will be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- We recognize that Children's Services has responsibility for investigate all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child, and that Adult Services do for adults at risk. (Contact numbers are in the main policy held in the vestry bookcase).
- We acknowledge that Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) have responsibility for dealing with all allegations and concerns about people working with children whether paid or voluntary, lay or ordained
- We will treat ex-offenders who have disclosed previous convictions fairly, and on a case by case basis
- **We recognise that safeguarding is a whole church responsibility.**

We are committed to:

- The establishment of an environment which is safe and caring and where there is an informed vigilance about that dangers of abuse
- Following the relevant legislation, statutory and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk
- Ensuring that we keep up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding