

Leadership Safeguarding Statement

The Lead Team of Freedom City Church recognises the importance of its ministry/work with children, young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

Freedom City Church is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults in need of protection 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, young people and adults in need of protection and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child, young person and adult in need of protection should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that the children, young people and adults in need of protection we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children, young people and adults in need of protection 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 in need of protection.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults in need of protection and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children and young people 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 team members 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-ordinator/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children, young people and adults in need of protection.
- 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, young people and adults in need of protection.
- 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.

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.
- When 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.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from Freedom City Church, 6 St Mungo's Road, Cumbernauld, G67 1QR.

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