

# King's Church Safeguarding

## - Leadership Statement

The leadership of King's Church High Wycombe, hereafter referred to as the elders, recognises the importance of its ministry with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect so far as reasonably practical everyone who attends an event or meeting organised by the Church.

The following statement was agreed by the elders on: 13/03/24

King's Church High Wycombe is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with 'care and support needs' and to ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse, neglect and child sexual exploitation of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect to the appropriate authority.
- 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 to the appropriate authority.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery and will ensure all our relevant policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and (*where appropriate*) have access to every aspect of the life of King's Church High Wycombe, unless they pose a risk to the safety of those whom we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment, selection and authorisation of all those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.

### **We are committed to:**

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

- Respecting the rights of children 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 workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national 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/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone in a position of leadership or responsibility agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by the King's Church High Wycombe.
- Supporting parents and families.
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people.
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake work with Children, Young People or Vulnerable adults.
- Supporting all those attending any meeting or event run by the Church affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by thirtyone:eight.

### **We recognise:**

- Children's Social Services have lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care 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 and/or social services should be contacted as a matter of urgency. The Leadership will inform the Chair of Trustees/ all trustees as appropriate having regard to the Trustees' obligations to notify the insurers if appropriate.
- 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 Safeguarding Co-ordinator(s).
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

### **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 King's Church High Wycombe.

Ruth Wainman, Child Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Rich Horne, Deputy Child Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Ruth Wainman, Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Rich Horne, Deputy Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator

A copy of the full policy and ministry-specific safeguarding guidelines can be obtained by contacting the church office, or on our website [www.kchw.co.uk/safeguarding](http://www.kchw.co.uk/safeguarding).

Signed on behalf of the leadership of King's Church High Wycombe:

Signed 

JOHN HARBOUR

Date 13/03/24