

Forest Fold Baptist Church

London Road

Crowborough

East Sussex

TN6 1TD

www.forestfold.org.uk

01892 653675 (Pastor John Cowley)

LEADERSHIP SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Jesus has a pure and genuine love for all; this is what we seek to emulate.

The Leadership recognises the importance of its ministry and work with children, young people, and adults in need of protection, and our responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care. We are committed to creating and enabling a healthy culture in order to minimise any coercion and control within our church.

Forest Fold Baptist Church (FFBC) is committed to the safeguarding of all children and adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse, exploitation and neglect of children and young people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child, young person and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that everybody we have contact with knows 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 the responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial, 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 vulnerable adults and will ensure our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every part of FFBC 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, young people and vulnerable adults.
- We believe in the necessity of creating a healthy culture in our church where the value of all people is recognised and challenges are responded to appropriately.

We are committed to:

- Supporting parents and families and adults with additional needs
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good practice recommendations.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring workers/volunteers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Supporting the Safeguarding Team in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and guidelines.

- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all who undertake this work.
- Supporting all at FFBC affected by abuse or exploitation.
- Using, respecting and taking guidance from the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by ThirtyOne:Eight

We recognise that:

- Child, young person and vulnerable adult safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.
- Children's Social Services has 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 a vulnerable adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police will be contacted as a matter of urgency.

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

If you have any concerns either for a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or in relation to any safeguarding matter, then speak to one of the following who are the Safeguarding Team for FFBC.

Jean Hare – Lead Safeguarding Co-ordinator -	07950515392
Marilyn Hitchcock - Safeguarding Co-ordinator -	01892 653784 / 07816787643
David Holman –Safeguarding Co-ordinator -	07955027258
Joanna Philpott –Safeguarding link to Young People -	07833704208

John Cowley – Forest Fold leadership and trustee representative for Safeguarding – 01892 653675

A copy of the full policy is obtainable from the Forest Fold website or from any of the safeguarding team.

Signed (by the Leadership)

John Cowley

John Hitchcock

Mark Philpott

Anthony Sharpe

July 2023