

YEADON METHODIST CHURCH

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

MARCH 2013

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectable pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them and appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Yeadon Methodist Church

The policy was agreed at a Church Council held March 2013

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Yeadon Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

Yeadon Methodist Church recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capabilities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in

being a safe, supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse and for communities affected by abuse.

Yeadon Methodist Church fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space 2007*:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Yeadon Methodist Church recognises the serious issues of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Yeadon Methodist Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

Yeadon Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Yeadon Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Yeadon Methodist Church affirms and gives thanks for work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Yeadon Methodist Church appoints Linda Blackburn as church Safeguarding Adults Representative and Linda Blackburn as church Safeguarding children Co-ordinator and supports her role which is to:

- i) support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Co-ordinators
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of the circuit ministers

Purpose

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Handbook (2010)

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 noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form, this will include fire safety procedure. 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 a satisfactory CRB disclosure. Each will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, 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.) and each worker will have an annual review conducted by a named member of the Church Council and another worker within the organisation.

Pastoral visitors

In terms of safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment.

Guidelines

A leaflet will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with vulnerable adults outlining good practice and systems. The leaflet will be reviewed with this policy.

Ecumenical events

Where the Ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of the Church Council.

Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events

Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement (see Appendix A) will be given a copy of this policy. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings.

Complaints procedure

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council who is currently Linda Blackburn. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to The Minister who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. The date of the next review is March 2014.

Key concepts and definitions

- i) **Vulnerable Adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii) **Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults** from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) **Adult/child protection** is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) **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 failure to prevent harm.

Dated

Signed Chair of Church Council

APPENDIX A – Booking and Letting of Church Premises Form

APPENDIX B – Computer, internet, email, and texting guidelines

- Care must be taken to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are not exposed to any unsuitable or harmful material while using computers, including smartphones, on church premises. Access to computers kept on church premises and used by children and vulnerable adults should be controlled in order to prevent the possibility of such exposure.
- Children and vulnerable adults should be supervised at all times when using the internet and given guidance about using it safely. Suitable software to prevent access to harmful material should be installed and/or Parental Controls applied at the appropriate level.

APPENDIX C – Photographs of children/vulnerable adults

The church will comply with Methodist Church policy regarding the appropriate use of photographs of children and vulnerable adults. Guidance and the relevant consent forms will be made available to leaders.

APPENDIX D – Keys

A list of key holders is held by the Church Council Secretary and appropriate forms must be completed by each key holder.

The Church Council will keep the list under review.

