

Gateway Chapel Safeguarding Statement

The leadership of Gateway Chapel is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of each individual within our church community. This responsibility is taken very seriously and it is our paramount concern to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

Gateway Chapel has safeguarding policies, working procedures and ongoing training in place which encompasses the “workforce”. This includes all pastors, ministers, head of departments, workers, those paid or unpaid, who hold positions of responsibility in the church.

We are intent on ensuring that safeguarding is fully supported and maintained through our designated safeguarding co-ordinators.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the abuse (physical, sexual, emotional) and neglect of children and young people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- 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, discriminatory abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, modern day slavery of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for 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 and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Supporting the safeguarding coordinator/s in their work, and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by our church.
- 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 this work.

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 a vulnerable adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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

Full Policy

A copy of the full policy and procedures is also available from the church office.