

Safeguarding Statement

Lake Road Chapel (LRC) recognises the importance of its ministry to children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone attending our public services and meetings. This place of worship is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs 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 and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise 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.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to the public services and meetings of this place of worship unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We believe in the necessity of maintaining a healthy culture in our church where the value of all people is recognised and challenges are responded to appropriately.

Accordingly, We Request: That any child or young person or adult in need of protection be brought to and accompanied in our public services and meetings by a parent, guardian or carer willing and able to retain responsibility, care and supervision for their charge during their visit.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Following any guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection recommended by any denominational body to which we are affiliated
- Supporting parents and families
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding children and young people

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.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult with care and support needs then speak to **Stephen Aston** who has been approved as safeguarding co-ordinator for this place of worship, or in his absence the deputy co-ordinator **Jutta Devenish**.
