

Policy Statement on Safeguarding**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

The following statement was agreed by the Leadership Team and Trustees on: 14th January 2022

- **Unity Church, Orpington** is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse plus neglect of adults at risk of harm and abuse and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise that the personal dignity plus rights of adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of Unity Church, Orpington.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and/or vulnerable adults with care and support needs.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that the children that we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults by ensuring that all those working on behalf of Unity Church, Orpington will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation.
- Supporting, resourcing, and training those who undertake work with children and/or vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up-to-date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by Unity Church, Orpington.
- Supporting all in Unity Church, Orpington affected by abuse.

We recognise:

- 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 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 and our policy annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for Unity Church, Orpington.

Janet Wilson, Safeguarding Co-Ordinator. XXXXXXXXXX, Deputy Safeguarding Co-Ordinator.

A copy of Unity Church, Orpington's Safeguarding Policy can be seen on the church website: www.unitychurch.uk/safeguarding

Signed by Church Leader  Name DAVID BELL Date 18/01/22

and Safeguarding Trustee  Name PETER PRICE Date 19/1/21

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