

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk in the Church

Alvechurch Baptist Church

The vision statement of Alvechurch Baptist Church is: ‘Open to God, Open to the Community’

In fulfilling this vision we welcome everyone into the life of our community;

We have a programme of events for children through our Sunday Club and other activities;

We make our premises available to organisations working with children;

And we recognise the responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in The Children Act 1989 and 2004, *Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2010).

And we recognise the responsibilities for safeguarding Adults at Risk as set out in The Care Act 2014.

As members of Alvechurch Baptist Church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation:

Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the responsibility of the whole church community to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children or adults at risk, and to respond to concerns about the well-being of them and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. Alvechurch Baptist Church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

Alvechurch Baptist Church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, whether paid or volunteering. All volunteers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and Adults at Risk.

Respecting children

Alvechurch Baptist Church adopts a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children so that all children are shown the respect that is due to them.

Safe working practices

Alvechurch Baptist Church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children or adults at risk and adopting ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

A safe community

Alvechurch Baptist Church is committed to the prevention of bullying; it seeks to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Alvechurch Baptist Church (ABC) Safeguarding Team

ABC has appointed:

Mrs Barbara Parker, Designated Person for Safeguarding

Tel: (0121) 4452506

Email: barbaraparker2016@btinternet.com

She will advise ABC on any matters relating to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.



Mrs Debbie Jowett, Designated Person for Safeguarding and DBS Verifier Tel:

(0121) 4478029

Email: debbielakeman@aol.com

She will advise ABC on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. She will also oversee Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) applications and paperwork.



Where possible, the Safeguarding Team will always work together if/when issues arise.

Policy and Procedures

Copies of the Safeguarding Policy Statement will be displayed permanently on the notice-boards in the large and small halls at Alvechurch Baptist Church.

Each prospective volunteer willing to work with children and / or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the policy and procedure. They will be asked to sign a Declaration Form (see page 22) showing that they are willing to follow them. They will also be DBS checked initially and then at regular intervals dependent on their role.

A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with ABC.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, any amendments will be published and circulated.

The Safeguarding Policy Statement will be read annually at the church AGM and published in the Church Newsletter in June, together with a report on the outcome of the Annual Review.

All organisations hiring ABC premises are required to have compatible Safeguarding policies.

Individuals hiring the premises for events where children or adults at risk will attend should be made aware of relevant Good Practice Guidelines and MUST take FULL responsibility for their safety.

Definitions of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Actual or likely physical injury, or failure to prevent physical injury.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent, emotional, ill treatment of an individual that affects their emotional and behavioural development. It may involve conveying to the individual that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or that they are given responsibilities beyond their years or abilities.

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing an individual to take part in sexual activities, whether or not they are aware of what is happening. This includes no-contact activities, such as involving individuals in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Where there is failure to care for children or adults at risk and to protect them from danger, seriously impairing health and development.

We also recognise the potential for other forms of abuse, for example financial, spiritual, or discriminatory.

Whilst it is not possible to be prescriptive about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, the following list sets out some of the indicators which might be suggestive of abuse:

- unexplained injuries on areas of the body not usually prone to such injuries
- an injury that has not been treated/received medical attention
- an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- harmful behaviour is disclosed
- unexplained changes in behaviour or mood (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden bursts of temper)
- inappropriate sexual awareness
- signs of neglect, such as under-nourished, untreated illnesses, inadequate care.

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more indicators is not in itself proof that abuse is actually taking place. It is also important to remember that there might be other reasons why most of the above are occurring.