

Hexham Community Church Safeguarding Statement

Hexham Community Church regards the protection and safeguarding of children, young people and adults in need of protection and good working practice as a priority. In the interests of the safety and well-being of all it has developed and operates a formal safeguarding policy, based on advice from the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

The place of worship/organisation is committed to ensuring that everyone working with children or young people:

- has been safely recruited,
- is adequately trained and supervised,
- understands and follows the place of worship/organisations Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Policy may be viewed, or a copy obtained from the office at Hexham Community Church, Central Chambers, Beaumont Street, Hexham. NE46 3LS

As part of this of this place of worship/organisation`s commitment to children, young people and adults with care and support needs, it has appointed Kevin Williams as Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and Susanna Dawson as Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator. All the children and young people and adults with care and support needs involved in activities within the church know who they are and how they can be contacted.

Should the place of worship/organisation have any safeguarding concerns it will seek the advice of the Churches` Child Protection Advisory Service and if appropriate the statutory authorities.

This place of worship/organisation 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 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 and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults with care and support needs and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and 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.
- Following any denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/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 this place of worship/organisation.
- 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.
- Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

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.
- Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to our agency's headquarters.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

Kevin Williams - Safeguarding Coordinator Tel: 07747 782 460

Susanna Dawson - Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator Tel: 07779 762 956

You may need to leave a message and they will aim to get back to you later the same day.

If you prefer to contact the Churches` Child Protection Advisory Service Tel: 0303 003 1111, the local social services or the police.

Further details about Safeguarding policies, training and our Disclosure Service can be obtained from the Churches` Child Protection Advisory Service, PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent BR8 7UQ Tel: 0303 033 1111. Email: info@ccpas.co.uk Web: www.ccpas.co.uk