



Sanderstead United Reformed Church
Southern Synod

Promoting Safeguarding

Preventing Abuse

Protecting the Vulnerable

**Safeguarding Statement for
Children & Vulnerable Adults**

January 2019

Charlotte Ferris
Safeguarding Coordinator

The following statement has been agreed by the leadership of Sanderstead United Reformed Church.

This church is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and to ensuring their well-being.

- We believe that all children and vulnerable adults should know that they are valued within the church and safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of our church.
- We respect the personal dignity and rights of children and vulnerable adults (for example, as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) and will ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, verbal, financial, discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults.
- We recognise that domestic abuse affects both adults and children and believe that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with a Christian way of living.
- We will report any abuse of children or vulnerable adults that we discover or suspect.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed, the police will be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- We recognise that Children's Services has responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child, and that Adult Services does so for vulnerable adults
- We acknowledge that Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) have responsibility for dealing with all allegations and concerns about people working with children, whether paid or voluntary workers, lay or ordained.
- We recognise that safeguarding is a whole church responsibility.

We are committed to:

- The establishment of a loving environment, which is safe and caring and where there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse;
- Following the relevant legislation, statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults;
- Ensuring that we keep up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding;
- Building constructive links with the relevant Voluntary and Statutory Authorities.
- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that as a church, everyone works within the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policies;
- Supporting the Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and vulnerable adults;
- Following safer recruitment principles in the appointment and selection of all those who work with children and vulnerable adults, be they volunteer or paid staff, lay or ordained;
- Supporting, supervising, resourcing and training all those who undertake work with children and vulnerable adults. Training is mandatory;
- Ensuring that the children and adults we have contact with know that they are valued and feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm;
- Reporting any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect;
- At all times maintaining confidentiality, except in circumstances where to do so would place the individual or another individual at risk of harm;
- Fully investigating allegations made by children and vulnerable adults and taking appropriate action, where necessary;
- Ensuring any outcomes made will be done so impartially and under the guidance of the Safeguarding Coordinator or deputy or if necessary, the Synod Safeguarding Officer;
- Ensuring that all parties concerned, during an allegation investigation, receive the necessary pastoral support;
- Supporting and supervising those who pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults, and where appropriate implement contracts of behavior, whilst bearing in mind the overarching principle that the welfare of the children and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- If an assessment is made that someone poses an unmanageable risk to those in need of protection and could not safely attend our church, we will ensure that they continue to be offered pastoral care and will signpost them to appropriate agencies for support.

Name: Charlotte Ferris
(on behalf of the church leadership)

Signed: 

Date: 06.02.19