

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR STONEYGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

Our safeguarding responsibilities

Stoneygate Baptist Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, with a broad and inclusive ethos, embracing a diversity of all backgrounds and theological outlooks. In fulfilling this, we welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community, run and take part in activities for children and adults at risk, and make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church, and will pray for them regularly. Within this, we recognise our particular responsibilities in safeguarding children and adults at risk, regardless of any difference or characteristic such as gender, ethnicity or ability. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development and implementation of sound procedures.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of everyone to help prevent abuse and respond to concerns about wellbeing. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected must be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully cooperate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

- **Best practice**

The church will adopt a code of conduct establishing best practice for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **A safer community**

The church is committed to providing an environment that is safe for all, recognising that this means adopting special measures in order to safeguard children and adults at risk, and will therefore adopt ways of working that promote their safety and wellbeing. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who pose a risk to others is managed appropriately.

Safeguarding contact points within our church

FIONA HOSSACK, Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)

Phone number: 0116 241 5153 Email address: fiona_hossack@yahoo.co.uk

The role of the Safeguarding Trustee is assumed by the diaconate. Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the church safeguarding team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church notice board, and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any body who wishes to see it.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.