

## **Policy Statement on Safeguarding**

### **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT**

The following statement was agreed by the leadership on: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016

- The Lighthouse Church – New Malden is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise that the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable 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 the Lighthouse Church
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.
- 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.

#### **We are committed to:**

- Following statutory specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that as a place of worship all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 and all other relevant legislation.
- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- 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 this place of worship/organisation.
- Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.

#### **We recognise:**

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- 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 a vulnerable adult.
- 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 vulnerable adult then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

**Safeguarding Co-Ordinator:** Bob Mullins 0208 715 4165 Mob: 07711 70 20 75  
[info@lighthouse-church.org.uk](mailto:info@lighthouse-church.org.uk)

**Deputy Safeguarding Co-Ordinator:**

A copy of this Lighthouse Church – New Malden policy can be seen in the Church office & Online:

<http://lighthouse-church.org.uk/Groups/252274/Policies.aspx>

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Sam Jayakrishna - Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_ Bob Mullins - Elder

Date 11th<sup>t</sup> June 2018