



## **Policy Statement: Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

This statement was amended following the Church meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 where changes had been agreed. It will be read annually at a Church meeting deemed to be most appropriate where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

As Christians we are charged to love and care for each other. We recognise that our work with children, young people (aged under 18 years) and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church. We believe that being part of the Christian family of the Church places responsibility on all her members, both institutional and individual, to ensure that the environment for all is safe. This includes particular attention to children, young people and those who are vulnerable who wish to share in the life of the church and who are offered support and pastoral care by the church, both formal and informal.

1. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children, young people (aged under 18 years) and vulnerable adults associated with the church and promoting their safety and well-being.
2. It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church community to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect of children, young people and vulnerable adults and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully cooperate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.
3. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children, young people (aged under 18 years) and vulnerable adults, whether paid or as a volunteer.
4. The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
5. The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its publications *Safe to Grow* (revised edition) and *Safe to Belong*.

6. Each person who works with children, young people (aged under 18 years) or vulnerable adults will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by the church. Each worker with **must** know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Every worker shall be given access to a paper or electronic copy of the church's agreed procedures and Good Practice Guidelines.

**This policy covers all of the church's organised youth & children's work and those activities which are specifically directed to the needs of vulnerable adults.**

**These including the following:**

Light Factory, Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Ozone/Junction, Children's Holiday Club, Ministers, Deacons, Youth residential weekend, All one-off children & youth activities, All age service team, Sunshine Group, Victoria Club and Monday Club.

**The church appoints:**

**Peter Prentice:** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable adults at our meetings and to outside bodies.

**Sue Parrotte & Christian Bray:** Designated Persons for Safeguarding

**Sue Parrotte:** Children's Advocate

**Peter Prentice:** Safeguarding Trustee

Note: The Churches Forum for Safeguarding, of which the Baptist Union of Great Britain is a member, defines a vulnerable person as someone who may be at risk or in need, as a result of

- Sensory or physical disability or impairments
- A learning disability
- A physical illness
- A mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including dementia or addiction to alcohol or drugs
- A reduction of physical, mental or emotional capacity, or who has, for any reason, become unable to protect him or herself from significant harm or exploitation