



Hope Church Network Safeguarding Policy

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Signed by: D Burchell for Trustees



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Our Commitment

Hope Church Network's safeguarding statement contains six overarching policy commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and adults at risk of harm* within both congregations
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims / survivors of abuse (i.e. children, young people or adults at risk of harm) and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for all who are affected by concerns or allegations of abuse
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults at risk of harm
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults at risk of harm
- The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount
- Integrity, respect and listening to all
- Transparency and openness
- Accountability
- Collaboration with key statutory authorities and other agencies
- Use of professional safeguarding advice and support both inside and outside the community and Church
- A commitment to the prevention of abuse
- The active management of risk
- Promoting a culture of informed vigilance
- Regular evaluation to ensure best practice

To this end:

- We will promote a safer environment and culture demonstrated by the fact that the Trustees and Elders believe that no-one should ever experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all people and to keep them safe. We are committed to live, work and practise our faith in a way that protects them.
- We will ensure that any concerns or allegations raised are documented and assessed. Any concern or allegation which is deemed to meet the threshold for further safeguarding action will be reported to the relevant authorities, as outlined in the Appendix.
- We will treat all those who live or work in our community with care and respect.
- We will make all those who live and work in our community aware of our safeguarding policy and procedures.

- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the community, staff or volunteers, including DBS checks and safeguarding training.
- We will provide appropriate safeguarding training to all Trustees, members of the community, staff and volunteers.
- We will respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Those who raise safeguarding concerns will be treated with understanding and respect, as will the person(s), against whom the concern or allegation is made.
- We will take care to ensure that the community, staff and volunteers are aware of their roles and responsibilities in managing safeguarding procedures, including referral to the appropriate and / or statutory authorities.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and / or isolation.
- We will seek to protect children, young people or adults at risk of harm and other affected persons from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care to those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons including those who may pose a present risk to others.
- This policy and safeguarding procedures documents shall be reviewed annually by the safeguarding co-ordinator and the Trustees.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice, e.g.

- [The Children Act, 2004](#)
- [The Care Act, 2014](#)
- [thirtyone:eight Help Guides](#), specifically these include:
 - [Safeguarding Adults \(thirtyone:eight\)](#)
 - [Working safely with children and young people \(thirtyone:eight\)](#)



Safeguarding Team

The adoption of these policies is demonstrated by the appointment of a safeguarding co-ordinator, who is assisted by a safeguarding deputy in each church. These co-ordinators receive regular safeguarding training and use the independent charity [Thirtyone:eight home page \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](http://thirtyoneeight.org) for advice, guidance and safeguarding resources.

Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Kerrie Elsom

kerrie@hopechurch.life

07570 756466

Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator (Greatham)

Clare Shaw

clares@hopechurch.life

Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator (Petersfield)

Gemma Moore

gemmam@hopechurch.life

Related Hope Church Network Policies

- Complaints Handling Policy
- Disciplinary Policy
- Serious Incident Reporting Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Whistleblowing, Anti-bullying and Harassment Policy

In addition, guidance on the implementation of this policy is set out in the Safeguarding Procedure document.



Appendix - Other Links

Hampshire County Council

For children - To report your concerns or to talk to a duty social worker regarding child protection call HantsDirect (Children's Services)

- Use this link to complete the [electronic Inter Agency Referral Form](#) for non-urgent concerns.
- Or telephone 0300 555 1384 (office hours for urgent concerns) or 0300 555 1373 (out of hours).
- Professionals Line 01329 225379.
- Or visit the [website](#) for further information.

For Adults

- To report your concerns or to talk to a duty social worker regarding adults at risk* call HantsDirect (Adult Services)
- Use this link to complete the electronic [Professional Referral Form](#) for non-urgent concerns.
- Or telephone 0300 555 1386 (office hours for urgent concerns) or 0300 555 1373 (out of hours).
- Professionals Line 01329 225378.
- Or visit the [website](#) for further information.

*Adult at risk of harm – formerly known as vulnerable adults in line with the Care Act (2014) it is best practice to use “adults at risk.” This definition includes adults who may have needs of care and support. More details can be found [here](#).

thirtyone:eight (31:8)

P O Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ Tel: 0303 003 11 11

Web: <http://www.thirtyoneeight.org>

Email: info@thirtyoneeight.org

thirtyone:eight provides support and training and can advise and support in policy formulation and help in individual cases of abuse.