



## HENLEY BAPTIST CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY

### 1. SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Henley Baptist Church is responsible for the programmes and events that take place under its management in the d:two community facility at 55 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2AA; this includes the café and the Family Centre. The facility also provides a base for the Nomad Youth and Community Project (which has its own safeguarding policy and procedures), and some parts of the premises are hired by external organisations and agencies; they are required to provide and adhere to their own safeguarding policies and procedures.

#### 1.1 OUR VISION

The vision statement of Henley Baptist Church (HBC) is ***To give hope, provide opportunity, and see transformation by God's powerful love.***

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

#### 1.2 OUR SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

Henley Baptist Church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

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. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. In the same way, church members should also respond to any suspicion of abuse of trust of adults not normally at risk by a church leader, whether voluntary or paid. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers**

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.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

Codes of conduct will be included in all Codes of Practice for activities involving children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practices**

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

### **1.3 SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS WITHIN OUR CHURCH**

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team. If you have any concerns that a child under 18 or an 'adult at risk' may be being abused, it is your responsibility to contact the DPS or another member of the safeguarding team if they are not available. The safeguarding team will work together to resolve any issues which arise. Further information can be found in sections 2 to 4 of the full Safeguarding Policy.

**Sarah Aston, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

They will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number 079221 98451 Email address: [safeguarding@dtwo.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@dtwo.co.uk)

**Joanna Malton, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)**

They will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number 07841 052980 Email address: [safeguarding@dtwo.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@dtwo.co.uk)

**Jo Gunnell, Safeguarding Trustee**

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Phone number 01491 577414 Email address: [safeguardingtrustee@dtwo.co.uk](mailto:safeguardingtrustee@dtwo.co.uk)

Our **Church Leaders**, Jeremy and Joanna Bray (07970 903041 and 07720 768348), are also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team.

The regional church leaders will be informed if any concerns are raised about the actions or behaviour of the Church Leaders.

**Salt and Light Advance Sphere:** Mark Eley [marke@occ.org.uk](mailto:marke@occ.org.uk) 07970 927082

**Southern Counties Baptist Association:** Steve Barber [s.barber@scba.org.uk](mailto:s.barber@scba.org.uk) 0757 7124852

### **1.4 PUTTING OUR POLICY INTO PRACTICE**

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard, in the church office 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 member of, or other person associated with the church.
- 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.