

**Newland Church
Luton and Dunstable**

Safeguarding Policy

**Children, Young People and
Adults at risk.**

August 2023

Introduction

Newland Church agrees that children, young people and adults have a right to live in a way which does not cause them harm or impede their human rights. We therefore acknowledge their right to protection from abuse regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

There is a responsibility on the church to act positively to safeguard the rights of all those who may be vulnerable within the user community. All those involved in the church share safeguarding responsibilities for the protection of the most vulnerable in our community. Newland Church aspires to be a loving community, offering a welcoming environment in which people can flourish, safe from harm.

The Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator is the person to whom all concerns or allegations should be addressed.
Contact details are below

Name Jannette Cannon

Contact phone number 01234 741538

Email address jannette.cannon@talk21.com

If the Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator is unavailable, or it would be inappropriate to contact him/her, then contact should be made with Thames North Synod Safeguarding Co-ordinator (details given later)

Safeguarding principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of children and adults at risk
- the establishment of a safe, caring and inclusive environment for all.

The need for a policy

The church must have proper policies, guidelines and procedures in place:

- to protect children and adults at risk
- to ensure the church meets its duty of care
- to protect the reputation of the church
- to comply with insurance requirements and protect church finances
- to comply with Charity Commission requirements.

Newland Church will not knowingly support and/or donate to any organisation which does not have a robust safeguarding policy.

Hall lettings

Those groups hiring the hall should hold and abide by their own safeguarding policy. If the hirer does not have a policy they must abide by the church safeguarding policy.

What is abuse?

Abuse can take many forms. It may consist of a single act or repeated acts. Abuse can take place in all kinds of different settings

This is not an exhaustive list and relates to abuse of both children and adults:

physical abuse
sexual abuse
psychological/emotional abuse
neglect
self neglect
self harm
discriminatory abuse
financial abuse
institutional/ organisational abuse
spiritual abuse
modern slavery
radicalisation
child sexual exploitation.

What to do if there is an allegation

If a child, young person or adult makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse against an adult, another child or young person, it is important that you:

- stay calm and listen attentively
- reassure them that they have done the right thing
- do not investigate or ask leading questions
- let them know that you will need to tell someone else
- do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret
- inform the Safeguarding Co-ordinator as soon as possible
- make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident and sign and date this record. Any such records will be kept in a locked filing cabinet
- report concerns to the relevant authorities, either Social Care or the Police.

Procedure in the event of concern

If there is an immediate threat of harm we will contact the police.

When it is judged that there is no immediate threat of harm the following will occur:

- The concern will be discussed with the Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator and a decision made as to whether the concern warrants a referral to statutory agencies,
- A confidential record will be made of the conversation and circumstances surrounding it. This record will be kept securely and a copy passed to statutory agencies if a referral is made.
- The person about whom the allegation is made may not be informed of this by anyone in the Church, if it is judged that to do so would place a child or adult who may be vulnerable at increased risk.

Dunstable site

Children's Social Care department

0300 300 8585

out of hours emergency safeguarding 0300 300 8123

c.s.acesandreferral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Who to contact in the case of an adult at risk

The Adult Safeguarding Team 0300 300 8122

out of hours emergency safeguarding 0300 300 8123 adultprotection@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

If the allegation is regarding someone working with children or young people in a paid or voluntary capacity

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO or DO) will be contacted. (in Central Bedfordshire the LADO is also known as the Allegations Manager). A decision will be taken about when to inform the person concerned. The timing and method will be discussed and agreed with the LADO. 0300 300 5026 or 0300 300 8142. Other contacts

Luton Site

Multi-Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH)

01582 547653

out of hours emergency safeguarding 0300 300 8123

mash@luton.gov.uk

Who to contact in the case of an adult at risk

The Adult Safeguarding Team 01582 547730

adultsafeguarding@luton.gov.uk

If the allegation is regarding someone working with children or young people in a paid or voluntary capacity

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO or DO) will be contacted. A decision will be taken about when to inform the person concerned. The timing and method will be discussed and agreed with the LADO.

01582 548069

Thames North Synod Safeguarding Co-ordinator for Children, young people and adults at risk

Belinda Herbert 07716640596

Email address safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Advice helpline run by thirtyone:eight (formally Churches Child Protection Advisory Service)

03030031111

United Reformed Church Safeguarding Officer

020 7916 2020

Email address; safeguarding@urc.org.uk

Further policy and guidance.

Good Practice 5 is the URC's policy and guidance document for safeguarding and can be downloaded from www.urc.org.uk/safeguarding.

Review

Newland Church Trustees will review this policy annually.