



POLICY STATEMENT ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

The following statement was agreed by the vestry on November 6th 2023.

- Westhill Community Church (WCC) is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs, and ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent harm or abuse to children and adults with care and support needs in all their recognised forms.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults and children and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all people should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- We believe every child and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that all those we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that, as a place of worship/organisation, all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy;
- Implementing the requirements of all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, The Children (Scotland) Act 1995, The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, The Care Act 2014 and UNCRC Bill March 2021;
- 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:

- 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 an adult with care and support needs;
- 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 adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for WCC:

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| Name: | Jenny Townsend | Safeguarding Lead |
| Tel: | 07964847968 | |
| Email: | jennyatowndsend12@gmail.com | |

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| Name: | Michelle Skellern | Deputy Safeguarding Lead |
| Tel: | 07588809787 | |

WCC’s full safeguarding policy can be found at <https://www.westhillcommunitychurch.org/safeguarding.html> (pdf file)

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| Signed by: | Judith Scurfield | Position: Vestry chair |
| Signed by: | George Laing | Position: Vestry secretary |
| Date: November 6 th 2023 | | |