



CROYDON METHODIST CIRCUIT

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Shirley Methodist Church [the Church]

POLICY STATEMENT

This Church fully agrees with the British Methodist Church Connexional statement for 'Creating Safer Space':

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community: for children, young people, and vulnerable adults; for survivors of abuse; for communities; and for those affected by abuse.

The Church recognises the serious issue of abuse and that this may take the form of: physical, emotional or sexual abuse; neglect; domestic violence; financial, spiritual or institutional abuse.

It acknowledges the effects abuse may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for working towards ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promoting welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation, or cause for concern, that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power.

The Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Government legislation and guidance, and safe practice in this Church and Circuit.

The Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.

The Church affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children, young people and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to protect those who are vulnerable, including adults, children and young people from harm, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; neglect; domestic violence; financial, spiritual or institutional abuse, and to affirm, encourage and support those working with them.

The Church annually appoints appropriate Safeguarding Officer(s) and supports them in their role which is to:

- Support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles
- Provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- Liaise with Methodist Circuit and District Safeguarding Co-ordinators
- Promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of Circuit ministers and as a working group.

These are:

Tau Wey 07779 581816

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about their roles and responsibilities for the safety of children and adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010), which can be

found on the Circuit Website
www.croydonmeth.org/page20.html

GOOD PRACTICE

We believe good practice means that:

- All people are treated with respect and dignity. Individual consent will be sought for participants on events i.e. attendance, photographs and publicity
- Nobody acting on behalf of the Church should meet or work alone with a child, young person or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen. Where this is essential for pastoral reasons another adult should be made aware and, a written note kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- The church premises will be assessed for safety. A report will be given annually to the Church Council. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable for children, young people and vulnerable adults or should be made more suitable.
- Transport arrangements to or from church activities are the responsibility of parents or carers, if they make arrangements among themselves, but are the responsibility of the church if the church activity organises them. Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be safe and legal

and the driver and escort appropriate. Where under 18's have to be transported by car or minibus arrangements, as far as possible, will be with more than one passenger in the vehicle. Where this is not possible i.e. last drop off, the remaining passenger will sit in a rear seat and the same child should not be left until last each time. Seatbelts must be worn, with booster cushion when under 12 years or 1.35 metres. (It is not the responsibility of the driver to provide a booster cushion. This should be provided by parent/carer at the beginning of the event.)

- When events take place off the premises, adequate staffing will be ensured for such events, together with consent forms. Uniformed organisations will work within their own legal requirements and procedures. Adequate notification of the event and details for emergency contact purposes will be given to a nominated person e.g. Safeguarding Officer. This person should not be related to anyone taking part, and not attending the event.
- Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

Other useful contacts:

Church Minister:

Rev Soon Ceol Choi 020 8654 5481
Mr Bennie Harms 07900 890 384
Circuit Superintendent Minister: Rev
Stephen Day 020 8656 6997
Circuit Safeguarding Officers:
(Adults) Linda White 0796 136 7788

Methodist District Safeguarding Officer:
Becky Skinner 07960 877740

Police Child Protection Unit: 020
8726 6000

Croydon Adult Abuse Helpline:
020 8760 5697

Childline: 0800 1111

To be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding
Principles displayed in church buildings.

www.croydonmeth.org