



Banchory Christian Fellowship Church


Safeguarding Policy Statement

1. The following safeguarding policy has been agreed by the Trustees of Banchory Christian Fellowship Church with reference to the law and guidance that seeks to protect children and adults at risk, including:
 - Disclosure Scotland Act 2020
 - Management of Offenders Act 2019
 - General Data Protection Regulations 2018
 - Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
 - National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014
 - Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC): Scotland's national policy since 2010
 - Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009
 - Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
 - Adult Support and Protection Act (Scotland) & Code of Practice 2007
 - Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005
 - Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001
 - Data Protection Act 1998
 - Children (Scotland) Act 1995
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

2. We believe, respect and recognise:
 - All children and adults at risk should know that they are valued within the church and safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of our church.
 - Safeguarding is a whole church responsibility.
 - The personal dignity and rights of children and adults at risk should be respected and will ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this.
 - Parents should normally be responsible for the upbringing of their children, but accept our responsibility when and where we have the opportunity to participate in children's and young people's lives.
 - It is our responsibility to help prevent grooming and the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children.
 - It is our responsibility to help prevent grooming and the physical, sexual, emotional, institutionalised, financial, discriminatory, domestic abuse and modern slavery or neglect of adults at risk.
 - Domestic abuse affects both adults and children and we believe that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable.
 - Aberdeenshire Children's Services has responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child, and that Aberdeenshire Adult Services have this responsibility for adults at risk.

3. We are committed to:

- Establishing a loving environment which is safe and caring, and where there is informed vigilance about the dangers of harm and abuse.
 - Complying with relevant legislation, statutory guidelines and recognised best practice in relation to safeguarding children or adults at risk.
 - Reporting any abuse of children or adults at risk that we suspect or discover.
 - Contacting the police as a matter of urgency where we discover, or receive an allegation that suggests, a criminal offence may have been committed.
 - Supporting all those in our church who are affected by abuse.
 - Taking reasonable steps to ensure that as a church everyone works within our agreed procedures to support safeguarding.
 - Supporting the "Safeguarding Co-ordinator" in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults at risk.
 - Implementing safer recruitment practices and procedures in the selection and appointment of all those who work with children and adults at risk, be they volunteer or paid staff.
 - Supporting, supervising, resourcing and training all those who undertake to work with children and adults at risk.
 - Ensuring that those with whom we have contact know that they are valued and feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering abuse or harm.
 - Supporting and supervising those who pose a risk to children or adults whilst ensuring that the welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount.
 - Assisting and co-operating fully with any police investigation or enquiry into any allegations of abuse involving those staffing events, leaders, workers, children or adults at risk.
 - Reviewing our Safeguarding Policy Statement and associated policies, practices and procedures annually.
4. This church, its congregation and leaders are committed to the nurturing and safeguarding of all children and adults at risk with whom we come into contact, and to ensuring their wellbeing.
5. Nigel Bradley, Trustee on behalf of the Banchory Christian Fellowship Trustees has overall responsibility for Safeguarding and ensuring that this policy is put into practice.

Signed:  _____ Date: 6/6/22

Date for next review: 20 2025