

*“God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)*

The creation of humanity in God’s image endows every human with equal value and dignity. As God’s image-bearers, we have responsibility before him and towards one another. Safeguarding is one important way in which we express this in our community.

## PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

Name of church: Hope Community Church, Cambridge

This statement was agreed by the church on: **20th December 2022**

- This church 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 the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk of harm and abuse and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the church.
- 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 should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children 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 church all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation.
- 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 church.
- Supporting all in the church 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 this church.

Safeguarding Co-Ordinator: Liz Taylor

Deputy Safeguarding Co-Ordinator: Emily Walker

A copy of our safeguarding policy is available from [admin@hopecommunity.org.uk](mailto:admin@hopecommunity.org.uk) or Liz Taylor.

Statement signed by the church leadership on 20th December 2022.