

Leadership Safeguarding Statement

The Leadership of MEC recognises the importance of its ministry with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

MEC is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- 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 suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Supporting the safeguarding team in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by MEC.

- Supporting parents and families
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting anyone at MEC who may be affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

We recognise:

- Worcestershire Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Worcestershire Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- If MEC is working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to CCPAS.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult then speak to one of the following who have been approved as the safeguarding team for MEC.

Heather Fooks	Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Coordinator
Jane Gleaves	Deputy Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Coordinator
Elisabeth Atkins	Disclosure and Barring Service Coordinator

A copy of the Safeguarding Policy and Best Practice Guidelines are available from any of the Safeguarding team or Leadership team and have been lodged with CCPAS.

Signed by:

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Leadership names: Leston Blackburn, Steve Atkins, Kevin Fooks, John Jacob

Date: 23rd April 2015

Review Date: April 2016