

## St Andrew's Methodist Church, Cheddleton Safeguarding Policy

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The Methodist Church believes that the Kingdom of God is both safe and accessible to the most vulnerable members of our society. Likewise, the church should be a place where everyone can prosper and grow. It is because of this and in line with the Home Office Guidelines 'Safe from Harm', that the Methodist Church agreed to implement Safeguarding. St Andrew's Church seeks to adopt a culture of love and nurture that is both safe and practical. St Andrew's Church believes it is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the spiritual, physical, sexual or emotional abuse of all and in particular children and young people and also to be alert to indications of harm, which others may be experiencing elsewhere.

### **This will be done, at St Andrew's by:**

- Having a safeguarding officer, appointed by the church council.
- Ensuring that all who work with young people are screened and have signed an official safeguarding policy document, as prescribed by The Methodist Church declaring that they 'have never been convicted or cautioned concerning an offence against children'. All new workers with Children and Young people, caretakers and any other office holder within the Church who may have lone access to the premises when Children are present, are required to apply for a disclosure from the CRB (through the CAS). See the relevant pages in safeguarding.
- Seeking to avoid any potentially risky situations by constant vigilance thus minimising any opportunities for vulnerable people to be exposed to harm.

More detailed information is available in the booklet, 'Safeguarding', produced by the Methodist Church. All workers with children and young people have access to a copy of 'Safeguarding' and training sessions are held.

### **Workers with Children and young people.**

What to do if you suspect there is a problem.

- Through normal childlike communication (play, drawing, modelling) lovingly ascertain the nature and level of risk. If it is felt necessary report this immediately to your supervisor/line manager.
- If further conversation is believed necessary, create a safe space for that to happen in a natural setting for you and the child and pursue the matter gently. Remember not to make promises about confidentiality and try to remain calm.
- For detailed guidelines read 'Safeguarding', pages 28 and 29 'Recognising Abuse and Taking Action'.
- N.B. Revd Simon Sutcliffe is St Andrew's safeguarding officer. Any concerns or queries can be discussed with him (phone 01538 360252). It is advisable that you seek out a confidential conversation with someone whom you trust in order to debrief and cope with the disclosure.
- If it is justified, the details should be passed on to the statutory services responsible for child protection (e.g. social services). In this case, the local minister and superintendent minister should be informed.
- Other pertinent points can be found in 'Safeguarding' Guideline 2 page 21.