



Safeguarding Policy Bethel Church Coventry

Introduction

1. Bethel Church in Coventry is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all individuals, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults who attend our services, events, or activities. This safeguarding policy outlines our commitment to promoting the welfare of all individuals involved in our church community and sets out our guidelines for preventing abuse, responding to concerns, and providing appropriate support.

Scope

2. This safeguarding policy applies to all staff, volunteers, leaders, and members of Bethel Church in Coventry who engage in activities involving children, young people, or vulnerable adults.

Legal and Ethical Framework

3. Bethel Church in Coventry acknowledges its responsibility to operate within the legal and ethical framework to safeguard and protect the welfare of all individuals. This includes compliance with relevant legislation, such as the Children Act 1989 and 2004, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, and the Care Act 2014.

Safer Recruitment and Training

4.1. All individuals involved in positions of trust or working directly with children, young people, or vulnerable adults within Bethel Church in Coventry will undergo appropriate recruitment and selection procedures. This includes obtaining references, conducting interviews, and obtaining relevant background checks, such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

4.2. All individuals who work with children, young people, or vulnerable adults will receive safeguarding training that is appropriate to their role. This training will be regularly updated to ensure individuals are aware of their responsibilities, recognize signs of abuse, and understand how to respond to concerns.

Code of Conduct

5.1. All individuals associated with Bethel Church in Coventry will adhere to a code of conduct that sets clear expectations for their behaviour. This code of conduct will include guidelines on appropriate boundaries, confidentiality, and avoiding situations that could potentially be harmful or compromising.

5.2. The code of conduct will also include guidance on appropriate use of technology and social media platforms, emphasizing the importance of maintaining professional relationships and avoiding any form of online abuse or exploitation.

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Pastor: Joshua Kindness

Elders: Ian Grindell, Chris Page, Gordon Sprouse

Core Leaders: Tom Owen, Liz Gray, Jane Rubacki, Derek Seedhouse, Karen Sprouse

Trustees: Ian Grindell, Chris Page, Josh Kindness, Tom Owen, Liz Gray, Jane Rubacki, Derek Seedhouse, Gordon Sprouse, Karen Sprouse

Reporting Concerns

6.1. Any concerns or allegations of abuse or neglect must be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding officer(s) at Bethel Church in Coventry. These concerns can be raised by anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that an individual may be at risk of harm or has been harmed.

6.2. The designated safeguarding officer(s) will follow the appropriate reporting procedures as outlined in the local safeguarding procedures and will make necessary referrals to the relevant authorities, such as the local authority designated officer (LADO) and/or the police.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

7.1. All information regarding safeguarding concerns will be handled sensitively and confidentially, sharing it only with those who have a legitimate need to know.

7.2. Information sharing will be done in accordance with relevant legislation and local safeguarding procedures. Any sharing of information will be discussed with the individual concerned, wherever possible, and their consent will be sought unless doing so would place the individual at risk.

Support and Training

8.1. Bethel Church in Coventry is committed to providing appropriate support to anyone who has been affected by abuse or has concerns about the welfare of others.

8.2. The church will ensure that individuals involved in safeguarding roles receive appropriate supervision and support to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

Review

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually by the safeguarding team at Bethel Church in Coventry, or more frequently if required due to changes in legislation or best practices.

This safeguarding policy is effective from May 2023