

APOSTOLIC GROUP SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Leadership of Jesus Fellowship Church (as vested in the Apostolic Group) recognises the importance of its ministry with children, young people and adults in need of care and support and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the leadership on: 10th July 2016

The Jesus Fellowship is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults in need of care and support 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 acknowledge that the safeguarding and welfare of children is paramount.
- 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.
- We acknowledge that 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, emotional, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults in need of care and support and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults in need of care and support and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to all appropriate aspects of the life of the Jesus Fellowship unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of all those who will work with children and adults in need of care and support.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of care and support 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 leaders and others adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following our guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the Safeguarding Coordinators in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults in need of care and support.

- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines we have established.
- Implementing training for Local Safeguarders in all Jesus Fellowship groups
- Supporting parents and families
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding children and young people
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting all in the Jesus Fellowship affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult in need of care and support.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the Police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Where 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 our agency's headquarters.
- 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 Safeguarding Co-ordinators for this Church:

- Jayne Elliott, Safeguarding Coordinator
- Mary Gunn, Safeguarding Coordinator
- Peter Taylor, Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator
- John Campbell, Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from Jesus Fellowship Central Offices or through the Church's online documents server.

A copy of our safeguarding policy has been lodged with CCPAS and Local Safeguarding Children Board in Northamptonshire, and in other areas where the Jesus Fellowship is active.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Michael Haines on behalf of the Apostolic Group and Leadership of the Jesus Fellowship Church

(The signed copy of this document is stored at the Jesus Fellowship Church Central Offices, and copies should be displayed in all Jesus Fellowship local centres.)