

Child Protection Policy

CHURCH DETAILS

Name: South Kent Community Church (hereafter "The Church")

Address: Church House, 136 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, CT20 2BN

Tel No: 01303 251155 E-mail address: skcc@btconnect.com

Denomination/Organisation: Salt and Light

MISSION STATEMENT

The Church Leadership recognises the importance of its ministry to children and young people and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the church's care.

As part of its mission, the Church is committed to:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the children's/youth workers within the church.
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers.
- Supporting those affected by abuse in the church.
- Maintaining good links with statutory childcare authorities/other organisations.

CHURCH POLICY

The Leadership recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. It also acknowledges that children and young people can be the

victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. The Leadership has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter "the policy"). It also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies. The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on a model published by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and prepared in consultation with [e.g. denomination & local authority]. The Leadership undertakes to file a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with CCPAS and Children's Social Services, and any amendments subsequently published. The leadership agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

The Leadership is committed to on-going child protection training for all children/youth workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.

The Leadership also undertakes to follow the principles found within the Abuse Of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a church worker carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to Claire Yates (hereafter the "Co-ordinator") Tel no: 07931 182905 who is nominated by the Leadership to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- The Co-ordinator may also be required by conditions of the Church Insurance Policy to immediately inform the Insurance Company.
- In the absence of the Co-ordinator, or if the suspicions in any way involve the Co-ordinator then the report should be made to Hannah Haines (hereafter the "Deputy Co-ordinator") Tel no: 01303 257559. If the suspicions implicate both the Co-ordinator and the Deputy Co-ordinator, then the report should be made in the first instance to the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0845 120 4550 or alternatively contact Kent County Council Specialist Childrens Services on **03000 41 11 11**.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns will be made in accordance with church procedures and kept in a secure place.

- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Co-ordinator, the absence of the Co-ordinator or Deputy Co-ordinator will not delay referral to Kent County Council Specialist Childrens Services.
- The [CL] will support the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies or seek advice from CCPAS, although the Leadership hopes that members of the church will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Co-ordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrates the commitment of the church to effective child protection.

The role of the co-ordinator/ deputy co-ordinator is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to Kent County Council Specialist Childrens Services. It is Specialist Childrens Services task to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, NEGLECT OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator will:

- Contact Specialist Childrens Services (or CCPAS) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Will not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted Specialist Childrens Services.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator will:

- Contact the Specialist Childrens Services or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by CCPAS if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Specialist Childrens Services /Police. CCPAS will confirm

its advice in writing for future reference.

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST A PERSON WHO WORKS WITH CHILDREN

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above the co-ordinator in accordance with LSCB procedures will need to liaise with children's social services in regards to the suspension of the worker and making a referral to a Local Authority designated officer LADO.

APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION & TRAINING OF LEADERS & WORKERS

The Leadership will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in government guidelines "Safe from Harm" (HMSO 1993), CCPAS guidance and Church practice guidelines. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

SUPERVISION OF GROUP/CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The Leadership will agree with the Youth and Children's workers the supervision for each specific activity.


SUPPORT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE


The Leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to those attending the church who have been affected by abuse.

WORKING WITH OFFENDERS

When someone attending the church is known to have abused children, the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its commitment to the protection of children, set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

This policy will be reviewed annually on 1st March

Signed  Date 10.5.15 Print Name James Coombs

Signed  Date 31/05/15 Print Name RICHARD JONES