

St. Matthew's Church, High Town

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults policy

March 2019

CHURCH DETAILS

Name: St Matthew's Parish Church High Town, Luton (hereafter, "The Church")

Address: 85 Wenlock Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0NN

Tel No: 01582 516944 Email address: nickmwandia@stmarysluton.org

Denomination: Anglican

MISSION STATEMENT

The Parish church of St Matthew's, High Town Luton recognises the importance of its services and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of vulnerable adults

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

- The safeguarding of vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being
- Help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that is discovered or suspected.
- Safer recruitment, appropriate training and supervision for all the vulnerable adults within the church.
- Supporting those affected by abuse in the place of worship.
- Maintaining good links with the statutory authorities and other organisations.
- The "No Secrets" and the Safeguarding Adults National Framework of good practice and outcomes in adult protection work.

PLACE OF WORSHIP / ORGANISATION POLICY

The PCC recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for vulnerable adults. It also acknowledges that vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional or psychological, financial or material and discriminatory abuse and neglect.

The PCC has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter 'the policy'). It also recognises the need to build constructive links with all multi-agencies (statutory and voluntary) involved in adult protection work. The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on a model published by CCPAS .

The PCC undertakes to file a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with CCPAS and Adult Social Care, and any amendments subsequently published. The PCC agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other places of worship/organisations.

The PPC is committed to on-going training for all workers involved in safeguarding adults and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.

The PCC will ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and all other relevant legislation, and that it, is welcoming and inclusive.

The PCC 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 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:

- The first priority should always be to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable adults and if medical attention is required this should be sought immediately.
- Discuss any concerns with the individual themselves giving due regard to their autonomy, privacy and rights to lead an independent life.
- If the vulnerable adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the emergency services, informing them of any suspicions.
- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to Safeguarding Co-ordinator Cindy Wilson (hereafter the SC) tel no: 07825 291325 who is nominated by the PCC 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.
- In the absence of the SC, or if the suspicions in any way involve the SC then the report should be made to the Deputy Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator:

Adeshola Ogunro (hereafter the 'DSAC') tel no: 07946 726833

If the suspicions implicate both the SC and the DSAC, then the report should be made in the first instance to:

CCPAS
PO Box 133,
Swanley,
Kent,
BR8 7UQ,
tel: 0845 120 4550

or the Adult Social Care Vulnerable
Adults Team
tel no: 01582 547759 9.00am and 5.00pm,
and 0870 2385465 out of office hours
emergencies.
Alternatively contact the Police.

- Contact the Adult Social Care Vulnerable Adults Team for advice who have responsibility under Section 47 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and government guidance, 'No Secrets', to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively CCPAS can be contacted for advice.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with the place of worship's/organisation's procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the SAC, the absence of the SAC or DSAC should not delay referral to the Adult Social Care Department or Police.
- The PCC will support the SAC/DSAC in their roles, 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.
- If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the SAC/DSAC has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the SAC(s) as to the appropriateness of a

referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the statutory agencies or seek advice from CCPAS although the [leadership/organisation] hope that members of the place of worship/ organisation will use this procedure. We hope by making this statement that the PCC demonstrates its commitment to the effective protection of all those who are vulnerable.

APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION & TRAINING OF LEADERS & WORKERS

The PCC will ensure all those working with vulnerable adults will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in government guidelines, 'No Secrets'' (DoH 2000) / 'In Safe Hands' (NAfW 2000), the Criminal Records Bureau / POVA Scheme / Scottish Criminal Records Office / POCVA Codes of Practice, CCPAS guidance and organisational practice guidelines attached. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

Anybody working with vulnerable adults on a regular basis will be expected to complete a CRB check. This will be renewed every 3 years

SUPERVISION OF ACTIVITIES WITH VULNERABLE ADULTS

The PCC will provide details of the supervision for each specific activity using best practice guidelines

Approved by PCC: Date _____ Signature _____

Reviewed by PCC: Date _____ Signature _____

Reviewed by PCC: Date _____ Signature _____

Date to be reviewed: Annually. One year after previous year's PCC