

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR LIFE CHURCH LINCOLN**

### **Our vision**

Life Church Lincoln believe every member, staff member and volunteer has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and practice in a way that protects them. We will give equal priority to keeping safe all people regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or belief.

The gospel affirms the value and dignity of every human being and those in positions of responsibility and authority must be trustworthy. Being faithful to share the gospel compels us to take with utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.

Safeguarding is the actions we take to promote a safer culture in Life Church Lincoln. To achieve this, Life Church Lincoln has in place policies, procedures and training and will actively work to prevent abuse from occurring. We will promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults. We will seek to protect those who are at risk of being abused and respond well to those who have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may be a risk to others and offer support while taking steps to mitigate such risks. Life Church Lincoln will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all. We must practice fully and positively a ministry to all children, young people and adults and respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs to keep them safe from harm.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community.
- Run activities for children and adults at risk.
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk.

### **Our safeguarding responsibilities**

Life Church Lincoln recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people, and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or ability.

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection, and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

#### **➤ Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered, or suspected will be reported in accordance with our

procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

➤ **Safer recruitment, support, and supervision of workers**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support, and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

➤ **Respecting children and adults at risk**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

➤ **Safer working practices**

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

➤ **A safer community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

### **Safeguarding contact points within our church**

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

**Clare Porter: Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

Will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number: 01522 694694 Email address: [safeguarding@life-church.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@life-church.co.uk)

**Kelly Prentice; Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)**

Will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number: 01522 694694 Email address: [safeguarding@life-church.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@life-church.co.uk)

**Tom Gawne: Safeguarding Trustee**

Will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Phone number: 01522 694694 Email address: [safeguarding@life-church.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@life-church.co.uk)

Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

### **Putting our policy into practice**

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

### **Note as of 21.06.2022**

The full Safeguarding policy is currently under review and will be published and made available on Life Church Lincoln's website once the review has been concluded.