

CHRIST CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR THE COMMUNITY HUB

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1210733

In this document 'the premises' are Christ Church and its Graveyard
and 'the PCC' are the Christ Church Willaston Parochial Church Council Trustees

Safeguarding Principles

The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal or sexual, or in the form of bullying, exclusion or neglect.

A child is defined as someone under the age of 18. A vulnerable adult defined in the Care Act (2014), is an adult over the age of 18 who has needs for care and support, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The PCC, volunteers and agents of Christ Church Willaston have a legal duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who use the community hub and those who may come into contact with them.

The PCC will respond appropriately to any concerns which are raised regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of children or vulnerable adults or concerns relating to discriminatory behaviour, financial violation or exploitation. This policy is in place to protect all children and vulnerable adults regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Christ Church Safeguarding Policy

If you are **not** able to provide your own safeguarding policy/ies then you **must** agree to abide by the Christ Church Safeguarding Policy which can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/promoting-a-safer-church-policy-notes.pdf>

Additional information for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults at Christ Church community hub

Responsibility for ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable adults while on the premises rests primarily with the individual or organisation hiring the premises. The PCC will require all relevant organisations which use the premises to have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures.

Any organisations or individuals hiring the premises for the purposes of holding activities involving children or vulnerable adults confirm, by signing the Community Hub Safeguarding Declaration when booking and that they have appropriate safeguarding measures in place.

Hirer must be aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure that alcohol is not sold to those under the age of 18 and that hirers are aware that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film or show.

No trustees, volunteers or agents of the PCC when acting in that capacity have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. However, the PCC recognises that safeguarding concerns may be brought to its attention and that any suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult must be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.

To this end, a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) has been appointed to whom any suspicions or concerns may be reported and who will provide information and advice on safeguarding matters. The current PSO is Anne Hughes and can be contacted by email:

aswillaston@outlook.com

The PCC will require hirers to report any damage, breakages or safety issues needing attention to the Bookings Secretary who will inform the appropriate persons. These will be dealt with as soon as practicable, in the light of the circumstances, with provision to prevent access by children and vulnerable adults pending repairs, where and when appropriate. The PCC is aware of the extent of drug use in society and will be alert to the possibility that drugs might be brought into the community hub, even though this is strictly forbidden and illegal. Post-hire checks will be carried out to ensure that no drugs have been left in the community hub.

Contractors engaged to carry out work at the premises will not be allowed unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. All work should, if possible, be undertaken when facilities are not in use, but appropriate supervision will be arranged if it is necessary to carry out work when this is not possible.

If the premises are to be used by more than one hirer at the same time, the attention of hirers will be drawn to the need to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are supervised when using toilets or other shared facilities/spaces.

The supervision of all groups remains the responsibility of the people who hire the premises and who sign the Conditions of Hire agreement on the booking form.

If a safeguarding concern is reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer they will:

- If it appears that there is an immediate danger to the child or vulnerable adult or a crime has been committed, refer the matter to the Police.
- Make a record of the matter in the Safeguarding Logbook kept for this purpose and ensure that all the information obtained is kept securely in accordance with the current data protection legislation. (this will be in the form of an encrypted USB memory stick that will be password protected by the PSO and kept in a secure location)
- Refer the case to the Diocese Safeguarding team

Appendix

CHRIST CHURCH WILLASTON COMMUNITY HUB

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

If you have concerns or suspicions that a child or vulnerable adult who attends an event or activity at Christ Church Willaston community hub is, or is in danger of, being abused, harmed or neglected, you should:

- raise the concern with the Hirer's Safeguarding Lead who is involved in organising the activity which the child or vulnerable adult attends and who will follow the organisation's safeguarding procedures or alternatively, raise the concern with the PCC's Parish Safeguarding Officer, Anne Hughes, aswillaston@outlook.com
The organiser's safeguarding lead or the Parish Safeguarding officer will, if necessary, seek further information or clarification and may then refer the case to the Diocese Safeguarding team. **If it appears that there is an immediate danger to the child or vulnerable adult or a crime has been committed, refer the matter to the Police on 999.**
- make a record of the matter in the church Safeguarding Logbook kept for this purpose and ensure that all the information obtained is kept securely in accordance with current data protection legislation.

There are safeguarding posters in the nave and in the committee room with useful numbers and information if you are unsure.