



Child Protection Policy

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Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number 1131617

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Policy Statement

CHURCH DETAILS

STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD (hereafter, "The Church")
Vineyard Centre, Tudor Rd, Sudbury, CO10 1NP
01787 377 670
office@stourvalleyvineyard.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Trustees recognise the importance of the church's 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 the statutory childcare authorities and other organisations.

CHURCH POLICY

The Trustees recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. They also acknowledge that children and young people can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. The Trustees have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter "the policy"). They also recognise 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 Vineyard Churches. The Trustees undertake to file a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with CCPAS and Children's Social Services, and any amendments subsequently published. The Trustees agree not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

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

The Trustees also undertake 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 **Vicky Leonard**, the Safeguarding Person (hereafter the "SP") tel no: **07919 256408** who is nominated by the Church Leadership (hereafter the "CL") to act 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 SP or if the suspicions in any way involve the SP then the report should be made to **Joel Taylor**, Safeguarding Lead (hereafter the "SL") tel no: **01787 377670**. If the suspicions implicate both the SP and the SL, 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 Children's Social Services. The local Children's Social Services office telephone number between 8.00am and 6.45pm is: **0845 602 3023**. The out of hours emergency number is: **01473 299669**. The Police Child Protection Team telephone number is: **01284 774006**. In this instance the Overseers of the Church should also be informed – **Craig and Hannah Deal at Gateway Vineyard, Norwich on 01603 439076**
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should 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 SP, the absence of the SP or SL should not delay referral to the Children's Social Services Department.
- The CL will support the SP and SL 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 **0845 120 4556**, although the CL hope that members of the church will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the SP / SL has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding personnel as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the CL demonstrate the commitment of the church to effective child protection.

The role of the SP / SL is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to the Children's Social Services Department. It is Children's Social 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 SP / SL will:

- Contact Children's Social 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 Children's Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Services direct for advice.

- Seek and follow advice given by CCPAS (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the SP / SL will:

- Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families 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 Children's Social Services/Police. CCPAS will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION & TRAINING OF LEADERS & WORKERS

The CL will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with CCPAS guidance and Church practice guidelines which follow. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The CL will provide details of the supervision children's activities in the church practice guidelines attached.

SUPPORT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE

The CL are 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 CL 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 was reviewed by the Trustees on 20th October 2021

STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD

CHURCH CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

The following policy was agreed by the church leadership and Trustees on _____

- We are committed to supporting parents and families
- As leaders of the church we are committed to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of children and young people
- We recognise that child protection is everybody's responsibility
- We are committed to following the agreed procedures and following statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines
- We seek to support all in the Church affected by abuse
- We review this policy, annually

If you have any concerns for a child or in relation to any child protection matter then speak to one of the following who have been approved as Safeguarding Co-ordinators for this church.

Joel Taylor

01787 377670

Vicky Leonard

07919 256408

A copy of the full policy can be seen in the church office.

This policy was reviewed by the Trustees on 20th October 2021