



Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy for Youth Space

This policy was agreed at a Youth Work Management Group of the Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly held on 13th April 2011.

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Youth Space is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children young people are paramount.

Youth Space recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children and young people. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support Youth Space in being a safe supportive and caring community for children and young people.

Youth Space fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space 2007*:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Youth Space recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on young people and their development including spiritual and religious development.

Youth Space commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or young person may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

Youth Space commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Youth Space commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Youth Space affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and young people and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding all who are on our premises.

Youth Space appoints Rev Susan McIvor Tel 029 2084 2207 as Safeguarding Coordinator and supports her in her role which is to:

- i) support and advise the youth worker and volunteers
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within Youth Space
- v) promote understanding of what young people can do to keep themselves safe

a) Purpose

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

b) Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or young person where the activity cannot be seen.
- iii) Youth Space premises will be assessed for safety for children and young people and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Youth Work Management Group. This will include fire safety procedures. The Youth Work Management Group will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any Youth Space organised transport of children or young people will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate. (See separate transport policy).
- v) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Youth Work Management Group will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area. These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers

Workers will be appointed after undergoing safer recruitment procedures including a satisfactory CRB disclosure. Each worker (whether paid or voluntary) will serve a probationary period. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training. Other training will be considered (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc.) and each worker will have an annual review conducted by a named member of the Youth Work Management Group and another worker within the organisation. (see separate volunteer policy) A leaflet will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with young people outlining responsibilities under safeguarding.

Where ecumenical events happen in Youth Space Safeguarding is the responsibility of the Circuit Youth Work Management group.

d) Youth Space events off the premises

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events. Notification of the event will be given to the Safeguarding Coordinator

e) Complaints procedure

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Circuit Youth Work Management Group and who is currently Mr David Jordan ☎029 2076 4029. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to Mr. David Jordan who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the Local Complaints Officer who is Rev. Peter Holwell

f) Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by Youth Work Management Group. The date of the next review is April 2012

g) Definitions

h) Child protection

is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

i) Abuse and neglect

may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Date 13th April 2011 Date policy to be reviewed April 2012

Signed ...DAVID JORDAN... Chair of Youth Work Management Group on behalf of the Circuit Meeting of the Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly.