

Cove Baptist Church Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction Cove Baptist Church is committed to ensuring a safe environment for all individuals, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines the steps we take to safeguard those in our care and to promote a culture of awareness, vigilance, and responsibility.

2. Scope This policy applies to all members, volunteers, staff, and leaders within Cove Baptist Church. It covers all church activities, both on and off the premises, including services, groups, outreach programs, and events.

3. Principles

- The welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse, harm, and neglect.
- All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.
- We will comply with all legal requirements and best practices related to safeguarding.

4. Safeguarding Responsibilities

- A designated Safeguarding Lead will oversee the implementation of this policy.
- All church staff and volunteers working with vulnerable groups will undergo appropriate background checks (e.g., DBS checks) and safeguarding training.
- The leadership team will ensure ongoing monitoring and review of safeguarding procedures.

5. Responding to Concerns and Allegations

- Any suspicions or allegations of abuse must be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy.
- All concerns will be handled with confidentiality, sensitivity, and in accordance with legal obligations.
- Where necessary, the church will work with statutory authorities, including social services and the police.

6. Safe Working Practices

- Activities involving children and vulnerable adults will be properly planned and supervised.
- Appropriate adult-to-child ratios will be maintained.
- Physical contact will be appropriate and in line with best safeguarding practices.
- Communication with children and vulnerable adults must be appropriate and transparent.

7. Whistleblowing

- Any concerns about inappropriate behaviour by church members, staff, or volunteers should be reported without fear of reprisal.
- The church leadership will take all concerns seriously and act accordingly.

8. Review and Implementation

- This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.
- The church leadership is responsible for ensuring that the policy is effectively communicated and adhered to by all relevant parties.

Contact Information For any safeguarding concerns, please contact the designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy at Cove Baptist Church.
