



# **Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**

**Policy Documents for the  
Herts & Essex Border Ecumenical Area**





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## Statement of Safeguarding Principles

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential 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.

### Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.





## Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for the Herts & Essex Border Ecumenical Area

1. This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults and is based on the current **'Model Policy for Circuits' Issued by the Methodist Church**, with adaptations to reflect and incorporate denominational differences within the ecumenical area. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.
2. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area, 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.
3. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area 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.
4. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable is paramount.
5. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in ***Creating Safer Space*** 2007:

*As the **people of the God\***, 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.*

*\* 'people of God' replace the words 'people of the Methodist Church' in the original statement.*
6. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.





7. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult 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. It commits itself to providing informed pastoral care to those in need, including the supervision of those who have committed criminal offences.
8. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
9. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area 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 adults who may be vulnerable. To help fulfil this commitment the Area adopts the **Creating Safer Space** Training Modules developed by the Methodist Church for implementation in all local churches.

## Purpose of this Policy

10. The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the current Methodist Safeguarding Handbook, the current URC Safeguarding Handbook, and the current Church of England Safeguarding Handbook.
11. The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area appoints **Mr Michael Fischer** as the Area Officer for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

## Roles and responsibilities

12. **Area Co-Leaders (Methodist Superintendent and URC Lead Minister)**
  - i. Ensure all churches have appropriate and up-to-date local safeguarding policies in place, in line with the denominational Model Safeguarding Policy applicable to the local church.  
  
Where the church is an LEP (Leaside LEP, St James LEP, Christ Church LEP) the Church Council/PCC shall determine which denominational Model Safeguarding Policy will be adopted.
  - ii. Support those in pastoral charge in exercising responsibility for the implementation of safeguarding policy and practice.
  - iii. Ensure the provision of pastoral support for those involved in issues of abuse and in management of sex offenders.
  - iv. Ensure training opportunities are in place for all workers with children, vulnerable adults, for staff of the Area and for members of the local churches in the Area.





- v. Ensure the Area Meeting appoints an Area Officer for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and that the details of that person are passed to the Methodist District Office, URC Eastern Synod Office and Anglican Diocesan Offices.
- vi. Ensure the Area Meeting reviews this policy annually.
- vii. Support the Area Officer for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults in their work, providing access to resources to enable them to fulfil their functions.
- viii. Ensure agreed procedures are in place for Area ecumenical events that involve children or vulnerable adults.

## 13. Area Officer for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- i. **Support and advise** the Area Co-Leaders and the Area Executive in fulfilling their roles.
- ii. **Support and advise** the local church Safeguarding Officers in fulfilling their roles.
- iii. **Provide a point of reference** to advise on safeguarding issues for the Area and individual local churches.
- iv. Act as **DBS verifier** for Methodist and URC online DBS checking systems.
- v. **Conduct regular reviews** of Safeguarding guidelines and policy compliance throughout the Area.
- vi. Co-ordinate the provision of **Creating Safer Space** (CSS) Foundation Module and Refresher Module training.
- vii. **Liaise with** the Methodist District Safeguarding Group(s), URC Eastern Synod Safeguarding Group(s), Diocese of St Albans Safeguarding Group(s), Diocese of Chelmsford Safeguarding Group(s).
- viii. With the support of the Area Co-Leaders ensure that any incidents and allegations are followed up or referred as necessary.

## 14. Local Church Council / Elders Meeting / PCC

- i. Ensure the local church has appropriate and up-to-date **local Safeguarding Policies** in place, in line with the denominational Model Safeguarding Policy of the local church.
- ii. Ensure the local Safeguarding Policy is **reviewed annually** and that a copy is **on display** within the church complex.
- iii. Ensure the appointment a **Local Church Safeguarding Officer** for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and that the details of that person are passed to the Area Facilitator and the relevant denominational District/Synod/Diocesan Office.
- iv. Support the **local Church Safeguarding Officer** in their work, providing access to resources to enable them to fulfil their functions.
- v. **Ensure contact details** for the minister, local church safeguarding officer and Area Safeguarding officer are **clearly displayed** within the church complex.





## 15. Procedures for Area events involving children or vulnerable adults

It is essential that Area events that involve children or vulnerable adults do not slip through the net because they are not owned by one church.

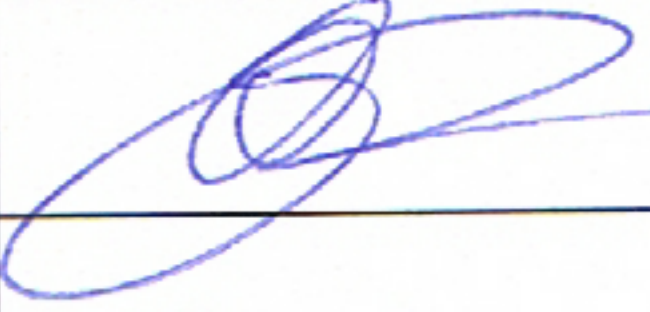
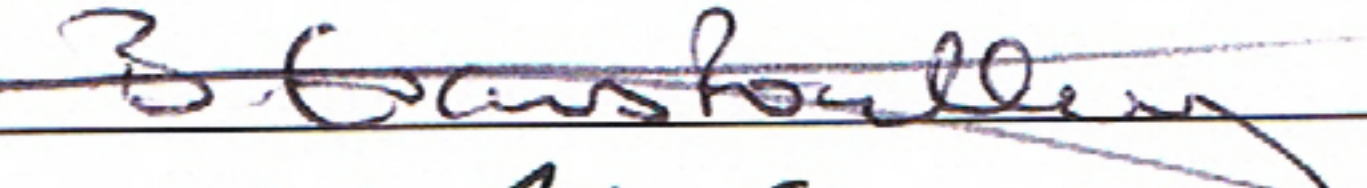
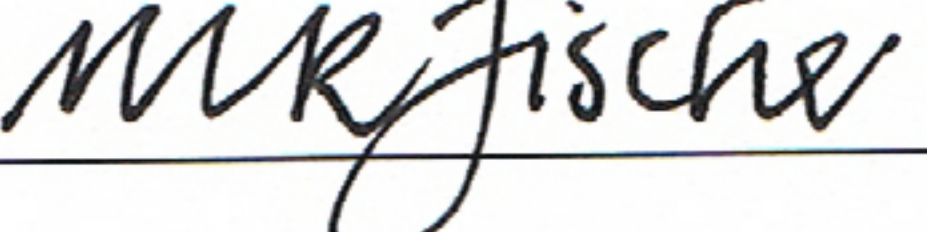
### Responsibility for those planning and leading the event

- i. All those involved in leading and running the event must be aware of the procedure.
- ii. The event should have been planned effectively and attention given to the following issues:
  - Risk assessment and suitability of the activity and the premises.
  - The appointment of a team to take charge of the event, including safeguarding and first aid personnel. Health or ability needs should have been taken into account.
  - Numbers of children or vulnerable adults involved.
  - Transportation following good practice guidelines.

## 16. Key concepts and definitions

- i. **Vulnerable Adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii. **Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment;** preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii. **Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare.** This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv. **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.

This policy was agreed at the Area Meeting held on: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017... and will be reviewed annually.

Office Holder	Signature	Date
URC Lead Minister Revd K Taylor		8/3/17
Methodist Superintendent Revd B Evans-Routley		8/3/17
Area Safeguarding Officer Mr M Fischer		8/3/17





## Safer Recruitment Policy

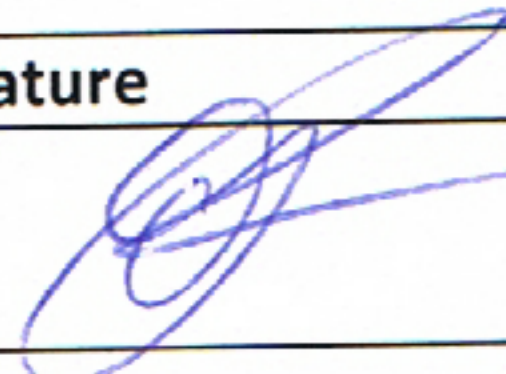
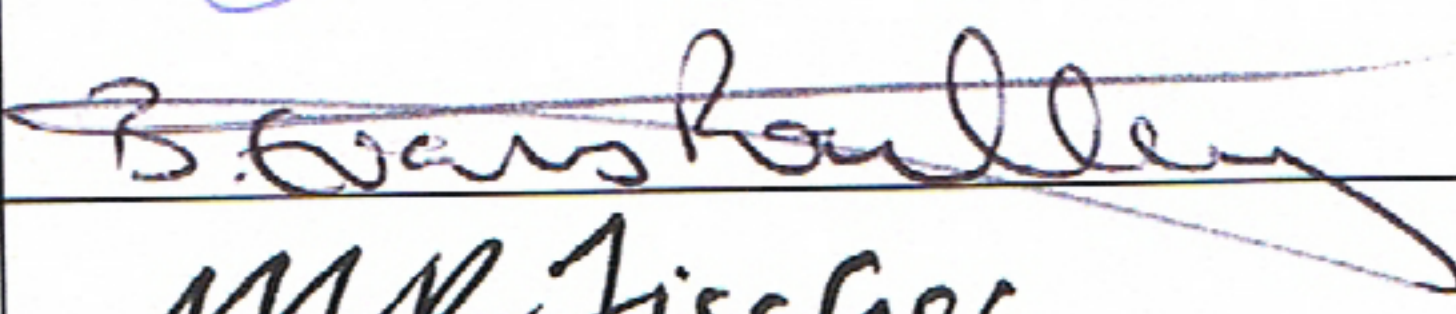
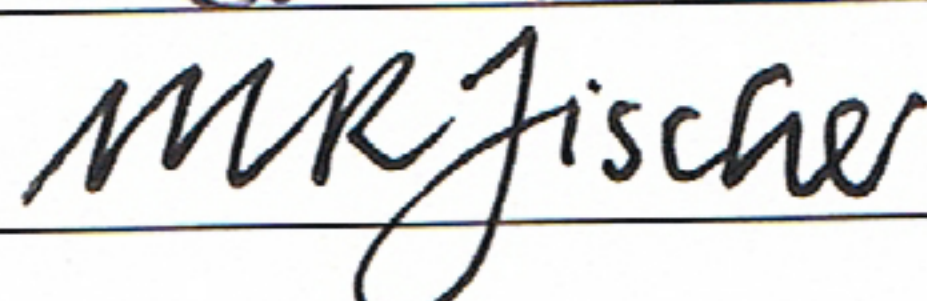
The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area and its member churches are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults, care and nurture of children within our church communities. We will carefully select, train and support all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles.

### This means that we will

- Ensure that our recruitment and selection processes are inclusive, fair, consistent and transparent.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent those who might harm children or adults who may be vulnerable, from taking up in our churches, positions of respect, responsibility or authority where they are trusted by others.
- Carry out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as part of Safer Recruitment in accordance with guidance contained in denominational safeguarding directives.
- Adhere to safer recruitment legislation, guidance and standards, responding positively to changing understandings of good safer recruitment practice.
- Produce and disseminate practice guidance on safer recruitment for both churches, ensuring that such practice guidance is compatible, and keep it updated.
- Always seek advice from denominational human resources personnel (*Methodist Church House; Eastern Synod/URC Church House; Anglican Diocesan Offices*) to achieve best possible practice.
- Ensure training on safer recruitment practice guidance.
- Introduce systems for monitoring adherence to the churches' safer recruitment practice guidance and review them regularly.

*This policy statement is based on **The Joint Policy Statement of Safer Recruitment** issued by the Methodist Church and the Church of England – updated on **15 March 2015***

This policy was agreed at the Area Meeting held on: .....8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.....  
and will be reviewed annually.

Office Holder	Signature	Date
URC Lead Minister Revd K Taylor		8/3/17
Methodist Superintendent Revd B Evans-Routley		8/3/17
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