

APPENDIX 1

LEADERSHIP SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Leadership of Open Door Church recognises the importance of its ministry /work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the elders on 10 March 2014

The Open Door Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children, young people (those under 18 years of age) and vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe all children, young people and vulnerable adults should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that they know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We believe all adults should be able to fully participate in the life of OpenDoor Church unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements of UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and vulnerable adults and following good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following any Newfrontiers guidelines in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the Safeguarding Officer in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by OpenDoor Church.
- Supporting parents and families.
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.

APPENDIX 1 CONT.D

- Supporting all in Open Door Church affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service).

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child (anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday).
- Adult Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about vulnerable adults.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country, in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to our agency's headquarters.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

A copy of our safeguarding policy has been lodged with Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service).