

UNION STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, CREWE



Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement

The vision of the church is to be 'Open to God, one another, the locality and the world'

We recognize the example of Christ in engaging with everyone, including those who we would now class as vulnerable adults and we wish to model our life as individuals and a community of believers on his example.

Union Street Baptist Church (USBC) therefore seeks to welcome everyone into the life of the church, including those who for whatever reason may be considered as vulnerable or marginalised. We recognize vulnerable adults have a right to privacy, the protection of the law, to be able to choose how they live their lives, to be treated with dignity and respect, and all regardless of their ethnic origin, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age and religious or cultural background.

1. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of any vulnerable adults associated with our church and will pray for them regularly.
2. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
3. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with vulnerable adults.
4. The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
5. The Church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain published in 'Safe to Belong' (currently under review) and in line with relevant legislation and the statement of practice issued by Cheshire East Council (No Secrets – 2000), all of which are available to anyone concerned.
6. Each person who works with vulnerable adults will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints **Helen Birtles** as **Safeguarding Deacon** to oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees.

The church appoints **Pam Burton** as the **Designated Person for Safeguarding** to represent the concerns and views of the vulnerable adults at our meeting and to outside bodies.

It is vital that all staff and volunteers know what to do if they suspect someone may be at risk of abuse or where someone discloses abuse to them.

A copy of this policy statement and the procedures is available from Helen Birtles (Safeguarding Deacon) or Pam Burton (Designated Person for Safeguarding). Copies can also be accessed on the church website: www.crewebaptist.co.uk

Each worker with vulnerable adults whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to sign to say that they have read them. Staff and volunteers are expected to comply with the policy and procedures at all times.

The policy and procedures will be reviewed annually by the Safeguarding Deacon and the policy affirmed each year at a Church Meeting.

Signed:
Minister

Date: