



**Dan's Den at Christchurch
c/o Christchurch
The Grove
Ilkley
West Yorkshire
LS29 9LW**

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY.

Dan's Den at Christchurch along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of all humanity 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.

Dan's Den at Christchurch is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people (up to age 18) and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

Dan's Den at Christchurch 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. Dan's Den at Christchurch seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the centre in being a safe supportive and caring place for children, young people, vulnerable adults and for those who have been affected by abuse.

Dan's Den at Christchurch 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.

Dan's Den at Christchurch 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.

Dan's Den at Christchurch commits itself to:

Dan's Den at Christchurch: A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Company No: 9655340
Registered Charity 1166027

- RESPOND without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed whether in the centre or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
- Ensure the IMPLEMENTATION of Connexional Safeguarding Policy: Government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the centre.
- The PROVISION of support, advice and training for all staff, paid and volunteers that will ensure all people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.
- AFFIRM and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding those who are on our premises.

Dan's Den at Christchurch appoints -Christine Henney (February 2020) as the Safeguarding officer and supports her in her role which is to:

1. Support and advise the manager and the trustees in fulfilling their roles.
2. Provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues.
3. Liaise with Christchurch's Safeguarding Officer and the District Safeguarding Officer.
4. Promote safeguarding best practice within the Centre.

a) **Purposes**

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 Methodist Church's Safeguarding Policy 2018 and Safer Recruitment Policy. Both documents can be found on line at www.methodist.org.uk

b) **Good Practice**

We believe that good practice means that:

1. All people are treated with respect and dignity.
2. Admittance to Dan's Den during trading hours must comply with Rules of Play, children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. To this end admittance during trading hours to adults not with a child must be restricted.
3. Adults on business must sign themselves in, wear a badge stating they are a visitor and sign themselves out of the premises when leaving. Friends and family members who are meeting clients with a child must do likewise, and this must be monitored by staff. Volunteers, Staff, and people working within Dan's Den at Christchurch are exceptions but must be identifiable.
4. Dan's Den at Christchurch will be assessed for the safety of children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to Trustees in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The trustees will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
5. Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The trustees will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

c) **Appointment and training of workers.**

The commitment of Dan's Den at Christchurch to welcoming everyone into the Centre means that the recruitment and working practice needs to be rigorous. All paid staff will be required to have a satisfactory enhanced DBS check before employment commences. All volunteers will be expected to have a satisfactory DBS check as soon as possible after they start volunteering.

These criminal record checks will be updated every five years. Staff and volunteers will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training such as 'Creating Safer Space.'. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g., Food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling etc.)

d) **Guidelines for working with children and vulnerable adults.**

A pocket guide on Safeguarding should be given to each worker outlining good practice and systems and how to respond to any concerns. It will contain important contact numbers.

e) **Complaint's procedure.**

There is a Dan's Den complaints policy and this should be referred to.

f) **Review.**

This policy will be reviewed every four years (in line with Methodist DBS timescales) by the Trustees. This assumes annual safeguarding risk assessment is in place.

To be approved November 21

g) **Key concepts and definitions.**

1. **Vulnerable adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of learning 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.

2. **Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults** from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.

3. **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.

4. **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.

Authors: Polly Hosking, based on Christchurch Safeguarding policy

Approved by Trustees: 12 Sept 2018

Review date: Sept 2019/November 2021

APPENDIX.

Names of people to contact re a safeguarding issue (updated May 2021).

Christine Henney Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding at Dan's Den at Christchurch.

Christine Henney Chair of Trustees

Rev Roberta Topham Minister at Christchurch

Merle Collins Safeguarding Officer for Christchurch.

For circuit, district and local authority Safeguarding Contacts please see:

<https://www.wandamethodists.org.uk/doc/safeguarding-contact-D527051.pdf>

APPROVED