

# Hull Unitarian Church

## Safeguarding Policy

### **1 Introduction**

Hull Unitarian Church recognises it has a duty of care to all children and adults within its circle of fellowship. We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of our Church. We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they feel otherwise. Being a caring community is one of the values of our Unitarian religion. This embraces a commitment to safeguarding which requires that appropriate procedures are in place and that the Church maintains consistent vigilance over these. There is also specific legislation to help safeguard children and adults who engage in 'regulated activities'. Such activities have become regulated because it has become evident that they are the situations in which children and adults are potentially vulnerable to abuse.

**1.1** This policy is in place to ensure that the Church is complying with all the appropriate legislative requirements and that these are adhered to at all stages of any individual's work with the Church, whether paid, contracted or in a voluntary capacity. In addition to complying with legislation with regards to regulated activities all Church activities involving children will be governed by a Code of Conduct. It is mandatory for everyone working with children on behalf of the Church to abide by this Safeguarding Policy and the Code of Conduct.

**1.2** As part of implementing this policy we have adopted:

- This Safeguarding Policy and
- A Code of Conduct for Protecting Children.

### **2. Regulated Activity Relating to Children.**

Any unsupervised activity undertaken with children at our Church by the same person frequently is deemed to be a regulated activity. Frequently is defined as, once a week or more often; or 4 or more days in any 30 day period. Any overnight stay is considered to be a regulated activity, for example, a national youth programme activity. In law anyone under the age of 18 is a child.

**2.1** Any proposed regulated activity must be approved by the board of trustees

### **3. Regulated Activity Relating to Adults.**

The legislation in connection with regulated activity relating to adults does not refer to 'vulnerable adults' per se. The characteristics of an adult, for example, frail or partially sighted is not relevant in deciding whether an adult is deemed vulnerable. The focus is on the type of care that the adult requires. Six categories of people fall within the definition of those carrying out a regulated activity.

- ~ Those providing health care.
- ~ Those providing personal care (for example help with washing and feeding).
- ~ Those providing social care.
- ~ Those providing assistance with handling cash, paying bills or shopping.
- ~ Those assisting a person in his/her personal management of his/her affairs.
- ~ Those who transport an adult because of their age, illness or disability from their place of residence to a place where they are receiving health or social care.

Regulated activity continues to exclude any activity carried out in the course of family relationships, and personal, non-commercial relationships. It is not envisaged that this Church will be engaged in any regulated activity relating to adults. However, should any regulated activities covering adults ever be contemplated then a specific code of conduct must be approved by the board of trustees.

**4. Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced Disclosure.**

All people working on behalf of the Church whether employed or in any voluntary capacity and who have particular roles and responsibilities which involve working directly with children or adults carrying out regulated activity will be required to have a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced Disclosure.

**5. Use of Premises By Outside Bodies.**

Non-Unitarian groups who hire the Church hall will be asked if they will be undertaking any regulated activities on the premises. If so they will be asked to provide evidence of their own safeguarding policy and advised that the Church has no liability with regards to the purposes for which the hall is hired.

**6. The Code of Conduct for Protecting Children.**

The Church has adopted a Code of Conduct aimed specifically at protecting children regardless of whether they are engaged in regulated activity. The Code provides additional information, guidelines and procedures for all those working for the Church.

**6.1** Anyone working for the Church, who comes into contact with a child, and believes that they have cause for concern, should follow the procedures outlined in the Code of Conduct and should immediately report their concerns to the Church's Safeguarding Coordinator or in his absence the Minister or any Church trustee.

**7. The Safeguarding Coordinator.**

This Church is a charity regulated by a Charity Commission Scheme. A board of trustees are responsible for the management of the charity. The role of Safeguarding Coordinator is an appointment of the trustees to whom the Safeguarding Coordinator is accountable.

**7.1** The Church's designated Safeguarding Coordinator will have undertaken a course of safeguarding training before appointment. The Minister of the Church will undergo a course of training within three months of appointment.

**7.2** The Safeguarding Coordinator will log concerns and incidents in writing and where appropriate refer the matter to the 'Local Authority Designated Officer' (LADO). If it is suspected that the allegation of abuse is also a criminal offence or is a crime such as assault, racial harassment, rape or theft, or if an individual has been intentionally harmed, the local police should also be contacted.

**7.3** The Safeguarding Coordinator will advise the Church on any safeguarding matters and take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. In the absence of the Safeguarding Coordinator, any cause for concern must be reported to the Minister or a trustee who should then follow the procedures laid down in the Code of Conduct.

**8. Policy Review.**

This Policy and the Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

*On ..... was appointed as the Safeguarding Coordinator, to whom any cause for concern should be immediately reported.*

*( Tel: Email: )*

***The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service 24 Hour helpline for safeguarding advice is:- 0845 1204550.***