



Coastlands Community Church Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

The Leadership and Trustees of Coastlands Community Church (hereafter Coastlands) recognise the importance of protecting and safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people entrusted into its care. We acknowledge children and young people can be the victims of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect, and have therefore adopted the policies and procedures contained in this document as a means of ensuring all our work with children and young people takes place in a safe and caring environment.

Our policy and practice guidelines are based on a model published by Thirtyone:eight (formally CCPAS) and, at their request, the Leadership and Trustees of Coastlands agree not to allow this document to be copied by other organisations. All elements of the policy and associated guidelines will be reviewed regularly and, if necessary, altered in accordance with any changes to the law and/or safe practice recommendations. General review of the policy will take place annually.

As part of our Child Protection Policy, the Leadership and Trustees of Coastlands commit to:

- Encourage each member of Coastlands to recognise that the safety and protection of children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church body.
- Exercising care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.
- Ensuring our children's and youth workers receive regular supervision, support, and training.
- Obtaining agreement from each child and youth worker that they will adhere to and promote child protection procedures and safe practice guidelines in all aspects of their work
- Working in partnership with parents and carers, providing them with appropriate encouragement and support.
- Supporting those within the church who have been affected by abuse.
- Following the principles found within the Abuse of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office. We therefore recognise it is unacceptable for anyone in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour that might allow a romantic or sexual relationship to develop, for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

The Leadership of Coastlands have appointed **EMILY WEBSTER** to act as our Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Her position will be regularly explained to all members of the fellowship, including the children and young people. The Safeguarding Co-ordinators role is to:

- Ensure Coastlands' policy and guidelines for child protection and safe practice are carried out appropriately.
- Ensure all Coastlands children and youth workers receive adequate training and support. Develop and maintain good links with appropriate statutory childcare authorities and other relevant organisations.
- Act on behalf of the leadership of Coastlands in dealing with any allegations of neglect or abuse that may arise.