

Churches Together in Cumbria

A charitable incorporated organisation registered charity number 1191358,
hereinafter referred to as CTiC

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1 Introduction, Key Principles and Values.

Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC) recognizes that the welfare of the child or adult – at - risk is paramount. We are committed to safeguarding all people who engage with our organisation, and our priority is always to act in their best interests.

By safeguarding we mean that all people engaging with our organisation, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and they will be responded to swiftly and appropriately.

CTiC is an umbrella organisation which occasionally organises ecumenical and social responsibility events and which supports the development of Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria. This latter service is administered and governed by local churches and organisations with their own safeguarding policies.

CTiC takes very seriously the importance of safeguarding children and vulnerable people and, in accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, CTiC is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

CTiC will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all;
- Have a named Safeguarding Officer to work with the President and Board of Trustees to implement policy and procedures;
- Ensure safe recruitment and training
- . Support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and vulnerable adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse .
- . On any appointment ensure the appropriate level of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is carried out;

- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of CTiC;
- Display on our website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs;
- Listen to, and take seriously, all those who disclose abuse;
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, including immediately notifying the appropriate church's Safeguarding Officer, and statutory agencies;
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, and when or where it occurred;
- Care for, and monitor, any employee, officer or trustee of CTiC who may pose a risk to children and adults, whilst at the same time maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties;
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually;
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

2. Human Resources - safeguards in place

CTiC follows a policy of “Safer Recruitment”. All staff and volunteers working for CTiC, where they are in contact with children or vulnerable adults, are required to complete an application form, give two references which will be followed up, attend an interview and be subjected to a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check at the appropriate level.

Before commencing their role, all staff and volunteers will have induction training that includes the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children. Further training will be provided. All will also receive a copy of this policy.

To ensure they understand their role, all officers and members of CTiC committees will also receive training/briefing on safeguarding and how it is being handled within the organisation. It is likely that all members will also have received training via their own church.

All service volunteers and staff will receive refresher training every two years; or sooner if any changes in legislation or incidents indicate changes required.

3. Confidentiality

People engaging with our organisation have a right to expect confidentiality. We cannot however give assurances of confidentiality about allegations of abuse. Where a person is unable to act for him or herself we have a duty of care to act on information given to us. It may also be that the abuse goes beyond the individual and we have a wider duty to protect others as well. We will strive to ensure that a person's dignity is upheld at all times during investigations of abuse allegations.

All those involved in abuse issues, whether hearing an allegation or conducting an investigation, will maintain confidentiality.

8. Key Contact Numbers

CTiC Safeguarding Officer Sheila Goodliffe 016977 41211

CTiC President Andrew Dodd 07585350248

CUMBRIA Social Services for Adults 0300 303 3249 Mon-Thurs 9am and 5pm, Fri 9am-4.30pm.

CUMBRIA Social Services Number for Children 0333 2401727

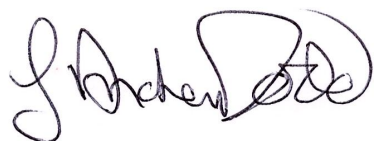
CUMBRIA Social Services Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team Tel: 01228 526690

Churches Together in Cumbria Safeguarding Policy March 2022

Approved by CTiC Trustees April 10th 2022

Next Review March 2023

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Dodd', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Andrew Dodd (President)

Dated: April 10th 2022