BRISTO BAPTIST CHURCH

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT BRISTO BAPTIST CHURCH SCIO

The following statement was agreed by the leadership on 8 May 2025.

- This place of worship is committed to safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs, and ensuring their well being
- The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability and recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent harm or abuse to children and adults with care and support needs in all their recognised forms
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults and children and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this
- We believe all people should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship
- We undertake to take proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with adults with care and support needs
- We believe every child and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that all those we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm
- We are committed to reporting and follow up of abuse, and it is the duty of each church memberto help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.
- Types of abuse include:financial; spiritual; discrimination; institutional, domestic abuse; online abuse; self-harm; mate crime; cuckooing; modern slavery, human trafficking; radicalisation; honour/ forced marriage; female genital mutilation, peer-on peer abuse, child on child abuse; and historic abuse. Definitions of these types of abuse can be found in Appendix 1 of 'Model Safeguarding Procedures: Best Practice for Baptist Union of Great Britain Churches' which can be accessed at: https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/512218/Model_Safequarding Policy.aspx

We are committed to:

- Following statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relations to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that as a place of worship,all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy
- Implementing the requirements of all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the National Guidance For Child Protection in Scotland 2014, the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, and the Equality Act 2010 and referring concerns about adults with care and support needs to the local authority under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007, Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 & the Code of Practice 2014
- Supporting resourcing and training those who undertake this work
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship
- Supportingall in the place of worship affected by abuse

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Safeguarding contact points within our church
The church has appointed the following individuals to make up part of the church safeguarding team:

Hazel Anderson, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)
They will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.
Phone number 077 6673 6345
Email address: hzl@live.co.uk

Alice Smith, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)
They will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.
Phone number 079 8634 7098
Email address alicejsmith08@aol.com

Ken Brooker, Safeguarding Trustee
They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.
Phone number 079 4220 6247
Email address kennethbrooker@yahoo.co.nz

Our church pastor is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of this policy can be seen on the back wall of the Church sanctuary and on the church noticeboard and is on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- Whenever this policy is refreshed, a copy will be emailed to those on the Bristo mailing list (including members and adherents) and raised at the AGM and members meetings.
- This policy should also be highlighted at each AGM
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

Signed by leadership
Name(Pastor) *Christopher Anderson*
Date 25/05/25