

## Safeguarding Policy Document

### Our vision

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The vision statement of Victoria Park Baptist Church is to be a church that demonstrates love in all our actions and words. We welcome everyone from all walks of life regardless of their background. We have set ourselves the goal of 'excellence in safeguarding' and we are committed to providing a safe environment for children, and adults 'at risk'.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

### Our safeguarding responsibilities

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The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of sex, gender, ethnicity, nationality, age, religious belief, sexuality, or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well. This will include taking advice as appropriate from the WEBA (West of England Baptist Association) safeguarding team, (LADO) Local Authority Designated Officer, 31:8 (Independent Christian Safeguarding Charity formerly known as CCPAS), NSPCC, Police.

- *Prevention and reporting of abuse*

It is the duty of each church member to 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.

- *Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers*

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

- *Respecting children and adults at risk*

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- *Safer working practices*

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- *A safer community*

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

## **Safeguarding contact points within our church**

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Rachel Rocke - Designated Person for Safeguarding - rsilcocks@hotmail.com

Jackie Knott - Trustee for Safeguarding - jackieknott.vpbc@gmail.com