

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT - FREEDOM CHURCH ROMSEY

The following statement was agreed by the Trustees and Leaders of Freedom Church Romsey on 12/10/2023.



Freedom Church Romsey is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being. This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Freedom Church including Senior Managers, the Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

We believe that:

- Children, young people and adults with care and support needs should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.
- All people should enjoy, and have access to, every aspect of the life of Freedom Church.
- We all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk of harm and abuse and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- Every child, young person and vulnerable adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that those we have contact with know this, and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory guidelines in relation to safeguarding and will ensure that all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Exercising proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children, young people and adults with care and support needs, through the implementation of a thorough safer recruitment process.
- Implementing the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation.
- 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 Freedom Church.
- Supporting anyone at Freedom Church 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 or young person. 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.

We will review this statement and our safeguarding policy regularly.

A copy of the full "Freedom Church Safeguarding Policy" can be accessed by contacting office@freedomchurch.uk. If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following, who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for Freedom Church:

Sim Dendy
(Senior Leader & Safeguarding Officer)

Ben Tanton
(Community Pastor & Safeguarding Lead)