Registered Charity No. 259980

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS This policy should be read in conjunction with the House of Bishops Policies namely:- 1.** Protecting all God’s Children– Safeguarding Children 2. Promoting a safe church – Safeguarding adults

* At all events organized in their name, Mothers’ Union Diocese of Lincoln shall endeavor to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults
* It is the responsibility of each member of the Mothers Union to prevent physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and report any such abuse that we discover or suspect
* We will work with all individuals regardless of race, disability, gender, culture or creed and ensure that we are constantly mindful of their welfare.
* Any member that helps regularly (ie at least once a week or more than 4 times a month) with Mothers’ Union events involving children under 18 years of age or adults at risk must have DBS clearance and must hold a certificate of disclosure. This clearance must be renewed every 5 years.

**Policy Aims** The aim of This policy is to promote good practice

* By providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of Mothers’ Union Diocese of Lincoln
* by encouraging all Mothers’ Union members to make informed and confident responses to specific child and adults at risk protection issues.

**Who are we safeguarding?**

* Children and young people are those up to, but not including, the age of 18.
* An adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who due to mental or other disabilities, age or illness; is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or protect him or herself, against significant harm or exploitation.

**What is abuse ?**

* Neglect (failure to protect the child or adult at risk from exposure to danger or failure to carry out important aspects of care.
* Physical injury
* Sexual abuse
* Emotional abuse
* Other abuse ( includes financial abuse, child sexual exploitation, or trafficking, forced marriage, honour based violence, female genital mutilation FGM and spiritual abuse

Abuses may occur separately or in combination. Where abuse occurs, it is usually perpetrated by someone known to and trusted by the child or adult at risk.

**Working policy for events.** At events where parents/guardians of the children are not present

* All children and helpers must be registered on arrival and an appropriate form of consent for each child completed by the parent/guardian giving permission for the child to attend the event.
* The permission must include name and address, an emergency contact telephone number together with details of any relevant medical condition.
* If any photographs of individuals or groups of children are to be taken at the event, parent/guardian consent must have been indicated on the permission form
* The premised must be secured so that no child can leave unseen at any time.
* There must be the correct ratio of adult helpers for the number of children being cared for, in addition to the organiser. (OFSTED ratios- see paragraph 510 of Cof E Safeguarding policy, accessible online)
* One person must be trained in First Aid. An accident sheet must be completed if an accident occurs and sent to the office asap after the occurrence.
* At the end of the event, children must be collected from the premises by the parent/guardian or a responsible adult as advised on the permission form.
* Mothers Union Diocese of Lincoln Health and Safety Guide lines must be adhered to at all times.

**Dealing with allegations**

* All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be reported
* For reporting see the Best Practice Diocese of Lincoln Leaflet.

**Reviewing the Policy** This policy should be reviewed at the beginning of each Triennial, and at every time national, Provincial or Diocesan safeguarding policies are significantly revised. Mothers Union Diocesan Trustee boards should accept and implement the Diocesan safeguarding policies, along with any specifically Mothers’ Union related procedures or guidelines that the Bishop’s Safeguarding Officer may recommend for inclusion. The Trustees acceptance should be minuted along with any recommended action points agreed with the Bishop’s Safeguarding Adviser

Reviewed 14th March 2022