

# Sheffield & Balby Area Meeting Safeguarding Policy

***Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care.***

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Sheffield and Balby Area Quaker Meeting is committed to making our meetings and gatherings for *children, young people and adults with care and support* needs safe and free from harm.

## **General Principles**

We recognise this as a responsibility of all who attend our Meetings. We each have a responsibility to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional, financial or sexual abuse and to report it when it is discovered or suspected. We are committed to giving support and adequate resources to those who work with those groups on our behalf and to providing them with Oversight.

We aim to fulfil our commitment by

- Developing a policy based on best safeguarding practice and guidelines
- Reviewing our policy on a regular (maximum 2 years) basis
- Ensuring that the policy and practices are widely shared and understood by everyone who attends our meetings; including the children and young people themselves
- Following carefully our procedures for recruiting paid staff and involving adults in activities with our children and young people
- Providing adequate supervision, support and training for both paid staff and volunteers in their work with the children and young people
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.



## **Essential arrangements for all work with children or young people**

- Adults should always work in pairs with children/young people
- One of those adults should have a Quaker DBS (not from some other organization)

## **Expectations of conduct towards children and young people**

- Treat everyone with respect
- Respect the right to privacy of each child and young person
- Encourage children & young people to feel confident and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they are not comfortable with
- Encourage the older children to be concerned and watchful about the welfare of younger children
- Recognise that caution is required in sensitive moments when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse
- Remember that hugging, touching or making personal remarks depends on the intent and emotional state of each person, and on what each person considers to be safe boundaries.

It is important that we do not

- Have physical or verbal contact which might be construed as inappropriate
- Play excessively rough physical contact games
- Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- Show favoritism to any individual
- Rely on our 'good name' to protect us
- Permit abusive activities e.g. bullying, ridiculing etc.

In the event of receiving an allegation about any adult including yourself

- Immediately tell the Area Meeting Safeguarding Coordinator/s
- Record the facts as you know them
- Ensure no one is in a position which could cause further compromise.

## **The role of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator(s)**

The Safeguarding Coordinator(s) is/are appointed on behalf of the Area Meeting

- To act as advocates for children and adults with care and support needs
- To act independently in reporting concerns of abuse to the statutory authorities
- To oversee the implementation of safeguarding policies and ensure they are regularly reviewed.
- To organise DBS checks.

## **Safeguarding co-ordinators:**

Laura Kerr and Felicity Starr    6<sup>th</sup> May 2016