



EASTBOURNE

**Living Stones Community
Church,
Old Town Community
Church
Eastbourne**

**Adults with Care & Support Needs
(Vulnerable Adults)
Protection Policy**

Revised November 2022

Living Stones Eastbourne is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England No. 4765158. Registered Office: Community Wise, Ocklynge Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 1PY. Registered Charity No. 1098281. We are part of the Evangelical Alliance UK and Churches Together for Eastbourne

This policy has been viewed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service. We wish to express our appreciation of the help given by PCCA Christian Childcare Churches Child Protection Advisory Service in the drawing up of this policy.

Protection of Adults with Care & Support Needs (Vulnerable Adults) Policy Statement

Our churches exist as voluntary associations of people from all walks and backgrounds who associate together at varying levels of engagement and relationship. With this understanding we have agreed this Policy Statement:

Rationale

As Christians we are charged to love and care for each other. This is particularly true where the most vulnerable members of our community are concerned. We believe that being part of the Christian family of the church places responsibilities on all her members, both institutional and individual, to ensure that the environment for all is safe. This includes safety for all those who are vulnerable and all who wish to share in the life of the church and who are offered support and pastoral care by the church, both formal and informal.

Definitions

The Care Act 2014 changed the definition of a Vulnerable Adult to Adults with Care & Support Needs

We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and everyone may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in their lives. For the purposes of this policy we adopt the following definition:

An adult with Care & Support Needs is defined as someone who is over 18 (unless specific legislation states otherwise) and could experience, or be at risk of, abuse and neglect and as a result of those care and support needs would be unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse and neglect.

Faith communities are mentioned in the Care Act as an important partner in Safeguarding Adults and as a result of working directly with adults may come into contact with people who might:

- Have a sensory or physical disability or impairment
- Have a learning disability
- Have a physical illness
- Suffer from a mental disorder, chronic or otherwise including dementia
- Who are substance abusers including alcohol
- Who are homeless
- Who are being forced into marriage or treated as a slave
- Who are a refugee or asylum seeker
- Who are living with domestic abuse

Our churches are concerned that those who work in regular, face-to-face contact or who have responsibilities with Adults with Care & Support Needs should be aware of the potential for misuse and abuse of power. Training in good practice and awareness of adult abuse and neglect and the proper recruitment of those who work with Adults with Care & Support Needs on behalf of the church is therefore essential.

Our Policy Statement

- We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of Adults with Care & Support Needs and ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of Adults with Care & Support Needs, and to report any abuse that we discover or suspect.

- ❑ We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with Adults with Care & Support Needs. This will include obtaining an enhanced DBS check and asking workers to complete our Voluntary Declaration Form.
- ❑ The church is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and reviewing those who undertake this work.
- ❑ The church adopts the guidelines of ThirtyOne:Eight where there is any need for further clarity.
- ❑ Each person who works with Adults with Care & Support Needs will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

For the purpose of clarity, the following people should have read and understood this policy:

- ❑ Living Stones Eastbourne Trustees
- ❑ Members of each Congregation Leadership Team
- ❑ Members of any designated pastoral workers in a congregation

Regular congregational attendees should have access to this policy through the church websites, and by written copies available on request.

Responding to concerns

When an Adult with Care & Support Needs discloses information which could well include details of abuse or neglect the following procedure should be followed:

- ❑ Don't ask questions – stay calm
- ❑ Do not give assurances of confidentiality.
- ❑ When it is apparent what the nature of the disclosure is, tell the person that you may need to talk to someone else about the matter. If possible ask if another adult can be present.
- ❑ Make written notes as soon as possible.
- ❑ Pass information onto your safeguarding Co-ordinator
- ❑ If someone shares a concern, count it as a privilege – they must trust you.

Any concerns related to Living Stones Community Church must be reported as soon as possible to **Jo Cordell (07979 941872)** , **Mary Leggett (07958 225409)** or **Justin Ayres (07540 524811)** Any concerns relating to Old Town Community Church must be reported as soon as possible to **Jane Moon (07913 505990)** or **Ruth Jones (07565 925031)**

These are co-ordinators nominated by the respective church congregational leadership teams to act on their behalf in referring allegations or suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities. A co-ordinator may also be required by conditions of the Church Insurance Policy immediately to inform the Insurance Company.

The Living Stones Eastbourne Trustees will be the final accountable body for the implementation of this policy.

This statement was adopted by the **Trustees of Living Stones Eastbourne** and the leadership teams of **Living Stones Community Church and Old Town Community Church** on _____

Signed: Martyn Relf

Position: Chair of Trustees

Date:

Signed:

Signed: Ruth Jones

Position: Church Leader OTCC

Date:

Signed:

Signed: Rob Kelly

Position: Church Leader Living Stones

Date:

Signed:

It will be reviewed annually by the Trustees and the respective leadership teams.