

Romford “Evan” Leadership Safeguarding Statement – Oct 2018

The Ministers, Elders, Trustees, Deacons and Organisers of church activities and groups –[hereafter referred to as the Leadership] recognise the importance of its ministry /work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care. We are committed to creating and enabling a healthy culture in order to minimise any coercion and control within our church. Romford Evangelical Free Church “Evan” is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being as follows:

A – Rights:

- We believe **every child** should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the **right** to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise the **personal dignity and rights of adults** who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should **enjoy and have access to every aspect** of the life of Romford “Evan” unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.

B – Responsibilities:

- **Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.**
- We recognise that we all have a **responsibility** to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such allegation, concern or abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise that we **all have a responsibility** to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults who have care and support needs and to report any such allegation, concern or abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the **appointment and selection** of all those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- We believe in the necessity of creating a **healthy culture** in our church where the value of all people is recognised and challenges are responded to appropriately.
- We will ensure that this Policy and Procedures are **reviewed** and updated regularly

C – Regulations:

- Following the requirements of **UK legislation**, good practice recommendations, or affiliated organisation guidance in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with **disabilities**.
- Ensuring that **workers adhere** to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping **up to date** with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following any denominational or **organisational guidelines** in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection, including General Data Protection Regulations.

D – Resources to facilitate the following:

- Supporting the **Safeguarding Lead or Deputies** in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/adults with care and support needs.
- Supporting **parents and families**
- **Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding** children and young people
- **Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring** and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting **those in Romford “Evan” affected** by abuse.
- Where possible, working with those who **offend** against children or adults
- Adopting and following the **‘Safe and Secure’ safeguarding standards** developed by the Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS).

E – Recognised Referral Agencies:

- **Children’s Social Services** (or equivalent) has **lead responsibility for investigating** all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about **a child**.
- **Adult Social Care** (or equivalent) 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.
- If working **outside of the UK**, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to the Church.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult with care and support needs, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as Safeguarding Lead or Deputies for Romford “Evan”.

Safeguarding Lead Rob Bristow	Deputy Safeguarding Officer Janet Shaw
Deputy Safeguarding Officer Hazel Skates	Deputy Safeguarding Officer <i>Vacant at present</i>

Version 6 – revised November 2018.

A copy of the full Safeguarding Policy and Procedures is available from the Church Office

Signed by Chair of Trustees	Date	Signed by Elder/Deacon	Date
<i>T. Edmonds</i>	<i>16/02/2019</i>	<i>G. Smiles</i>	<i>04/03/2019</i>