



## **Safeguarding Report for the Point Church AGM 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Sarah Emmanuel is the Safeguarding Officer for the Point Church. Sarah is a registered qualified Social Worker with fifteen years' experience working in child protection, currently managing a team of Social Workers within the Family Support and Protection Team in West Sussex.

The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person volunteers and church members would report any disclosures or child protection concerns to. If required the Safeguarding Officer will refer on any disclosures or child protection concerns to the Local Authority in which the child lives.

This role is regularly communicated within the church to ensure church members are aware of this role and who they should approach with any concerns.

Information of the safeguarding officer and team can be found on the website and is going to be added to the information point.

### **Safeguarding Team:**

The Safeguarding Team consists of Sarah Emmanuel (Safeguarding Officer), Will Kemp (Vicar), John Naude (Associate Vicar), Ben Leighton (Youth Pastor), Liz Styles (Children's Pastor) and Helen Watkin (Trustee responsible for Safeguarding). The team met on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to review the safeguarding policies and plan training and will meet yearly to review, with the next meeting planned for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### **Importance of Safeguarding:**

Chichester Diocese describes that safeguarding in a Christian context is Gospel work - it is an expression of our love for God and each other, and in particular of our obedience to the command to 'Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God' (Micah 6:8)

When we are 'doing' safeguarding, we are not just filling in forms or following procedures. No-one was ever protected simply by a piece of paper! Following procedures is vital but it is not the heart of what

safeguarding is about. Fundamentally, safeguarding is about the use and misuse of power, and the exploitation or protection of the vulnerable.

We are aware that the wider church has failed people with regards to keeping children safe and there have been many shortcomings in this diocese particularly and as a safeguarding team at The Point we want to ensure we have clear procedures in place and a culture where ensuring children are safe is a key priority and taken seriously. We want to ensure we are a church where people are able to speak out about any concerns they have and any concerns are dealt with in a professional manner, with no covering up or matters being brushed under the carpet.

### **Volunteers:**

All youth and children's volunteers are overseen by our staff youth pastor, Ben Leighton, and children's pastor, Liz Styles, who both have enhanced DBS clearance.

All volunteers working with the youth and kids team have a DBS check prior to undertaking this role. These are renewed every five years.

### **Training:**

Chichester Diocese have agreed that Sarah Emmanuel and Helen Watkin can run the C1 Safeguarding Training which is mandatory for volunteers, staff and trustees to attend. The first of these took place on 26<sup>th</sup> February and the next is planned for 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

It is agreed that volunteers will be required to attend training every two years.

### **'Keep Safe':**

As well as communicating about the role of the Safeguarding Officer as a safeguarding team at The Point we share the view that it is important to be a church that promotes children learning more about what they can do to try to keep themselves safe and promote a message which encourages to speak up, at the same time recognising the challenges and reasons why children might not feel able to.



We have communicated the NSPCC keep safe message the 'PANTS' underwear rule for the last few years and it is planned for this to be repeated on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**Disclosures:**

Any disclosures made are dealt with and referred on where required. The safeguarding team are made aware of any disclosures made.

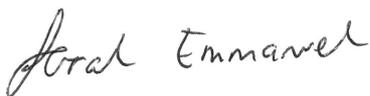
**Safeguarding Policies:**

The Safeguarding team have reviewed Chichester Diocese Safeguarding Policy and completed the mandatory 'Simple Quality Protects'. Actions agreed following completing this at the annual safeguarding meeting were that small group leaders, trustees and staff would be required to complete a self-declaration form and have safeguarding training and that The Point Safeguarding policy will be updated to reflect changes that have been made with regards to training. It was also agreed that all Trustees would have DBS checks and these are in the process of being completed.

Current policies can be viewed on our church website. Specific policies are in place regarding work with young people around social networking and texting.

**Conclusion:**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Acting on your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often question 'What if I'm wrong' but we have to also ask ourselves 'what if I'm right'. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns. I am always willing to be asked for advice around any concerns or 'niggles' people have and chat things through.



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Sarah Emmanuel  
Safeguarding Officer  
25/04/18

