

Safeguarding Report 28th April 2020

Safeguarding Officer:

Sarah Emmanuel is the Safeguarding Officer for the Point Church. Sarah has been a registered qualified Social Worker since 2003 with experience working in child protection teams since this time, 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 of the website and the information point.

Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team consists of Sarah Emmanuel (Safeguarding Officer), Will Kemp (Vicar), John Naude (Associate Vicar), Simon Shorey (Curate) Michael Holt (Youth Pastor), Liz Styles (Children's Pastor), Ellie Zaragoza (PA to Vicar) and Katy Trigg (Trustee responsible for Safeguarding). The team met on 25th March 2020 to review the safeguarding policies, training and continue to meet annually.

In addition the team are meeting with Morag Keane (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) on 22nd April to review the SQP (Simple Quality Protects) completed by the team to ensure we are in line with the diocesan policies.

Importance of Safeguarding:

Proverbs 31v 8 says 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.'

As a church we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected and recognise the calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised and protect all from abuse.

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/DBS checks:

All youth and children's volunteers are overseen by our staff youth pastor, Michael Holt, 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 and an induction pack detailing all the policies and procedures. DBS checks are renewed every five years.

Currently there are 65 adults actively working in a role who have DBS checks. 13 on the youth team, 35 on kids team, 6 trustees, 9 on the staff team, 3 on the schools team, 1 from sanctuary and 1 from being cook at Soul Survivor.

There are other members within the congregation who has DBS checks from having been on a mission trip for example but not in a current role but who could be called upon should there be team shortage.

Training:

Chichester Diocese have agreed that Sarah Emmanuel can run the C1 Safeguarding Training which is mandatory for volunteers, staff and trustees to attend. These are run twice per year. The last one took place on 16th September 2019 and was attended by 16 members of the Point, in addition volunteers from Hope Charity attended.

There was a training scheduled for 16th March 2020 however due to COVID-19 the decision was made to cancel this training and advise those who had not already attended to complete the C1 training which is accessible online via Chichester Diocesan website. In addition I recorded a five minute video outlining my role and what to do if a child or young person made a disclosure.

It is agreed that volunteers will be required to attend training every two years. The diocese require training to take place every three years but at the point we made the decision for our volunteers to attend every two years so that training is refreshed more regularly but also to allow a little leeway where people haven't been able to attend but can still remain on team.

In addition all members of the safeguarding team are required to attend C2 safeguarding training.

'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 annually over the last few years and continue to do so.

When we met as a team we felt we should wait until we are all back together physically at church to run the next PANTS presentation but in May time when we would usually cover this Liz Styles will email out the NSPCC presentation and upload to the Sanctuary and Point Facebook pages, which she has done regularly before to keep sharing this message.

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'.

Current policies can be viewed on our church website. In line with the new diocesan policy our new website has a link on its home page directly to these policies.

Specific policies are in place regarding work with young people around social networking and texting.

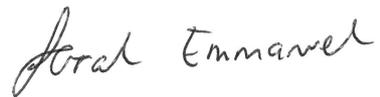
With regards to COVID-19 polices have been updated to include that Zoom or other video chats will not take place on a 1-1 basis between a team/staff member and a young person of the opposite sex and another team member would always be included. With regards to Kids work video calls are taking place via parents phones.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Emmanuel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Sarah Emmanuel
Safeguarding Officer
19/04/20