

GTCC SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2025

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Review Control

Version:	Comments/reviewer	Date
1	Reviewed by the Board of Trustees	September 2024
2	Trustee sign off	January 2025
3	Reviewed & Signed by Chair	January 2025
4	Date to be reviewed	January 2026

GTCC SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

The Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy ('GTCC') recognises the importance of ensuring a safe and caring environment for the safety of staff, volunteers and all who access its services especially those who are identified as vulnerable or at risk of harm.

Each person who works within GTCC will agree to abide by this policy and the relevant detailed procedures established by GTCC.

The following person is named the Safeguarding Officer: **Rev. Noelle Coe.**

Deputy: **Rev. Roderick Pierce, Trustee**

We believe that every person has a value and dignity which Christians see as coming directly from the creation of human beings in God's own image and likeness. This implies that, among other things, there is a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

GTCC aims to:

- Promote good practice and ensure by training that all staff and volunteers:
 - a. can identify persons who may be vulnerable and
 - b. work in a way that safeguards the wellbeing of anyone at risk and protects them from abuse or neglect and
 - c. work in a way that safeguards their own wellbeing
- work with confidence and safety in environments where there is potential for contact with persons they identify as vulnerable or at risk.
- Carefully select and train those with responsibility within GTCC's operations in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes

- Support, resource and train those who undertake our activities allowing them to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues.
- Ensure that all staff, volunteers and clients are aware of what to do if they have a concern and the confidence to pass their concerns on.
- Ensure detailed guidance procedures for safeguarding are made available to all staff and volunteers and that they are monitored and updated regularly.

When working with anyone, GTCC will endeavour to ensure that we:

- Promote their health and welfare.
- Respect and promote their rights.
- Work in a way which safeguards the wellbeing of each person at risk and protects them from abuse and neglect.
- Take appropriate steps if they become aware of any signs/ incidents of abuse and /or neglect.
- Ensure anyone working for GTCC is made aware of their responsibilities when working alone or unsupervised with vulnerable persons or anyone at possible risk.
- Ensure that all volunteers, staff and trustees have received appropriate safeguarding training and are aware of legislation concerning the use of mobile phone cameras and other digital technology if taking photographs that may include young people.
- Respond appropriately to all forms of abuse including evidence of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, organisational or spiritual abuse of those encountered in our work and ensure that any concerns of those at risk are heard and acted upon.
- Respond without delay to any complaints made regarding GTCC's activities, cooperating with the police and Local Authority in any investigation.
- Commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- Ensure that anyone expressing concerns about someone else within GTCC can come forward in confidence to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything they see ('Whistle-blowing') and that they are fully protected.
- Offer pastoral care and support to any member of our organisation should they be known or alleged to have offended against a child, young person or adult.

The application of this policy will be reviewed each year and a report provided by the Safeguarding Officer to the Trustees.

Agreed by the Board of Trustees. To be reviewed every year, next review January 2026

Signed:  Chris Britton, Chair date 14th January 2025

Signed:  Noelle Coe date 14th January 2025