



# SBC Policy Statement on Safeguarding

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## Our vision

The vision statement of Streatham Baptist Church is:

*“We are a multi-ethnic, intergenerational church committed to worshipping Jesus together, empowered by the Spirit, to serve one another and the communities represented throughout our congregation and beyond”.*

Regarding Safeguarding, SBC’s desire is to provide a safer environment for all members of the church community to enjoy.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome all, including Children, Young People and Adults at Risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for the church community including Children, Young People, and Adults at Risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with Children, Young People, and Adults at Risk



## Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all Children, Young People and Adults at Risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or ability.

As an SBC family, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection, and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to the SBC safeguarding policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of the SBC family to help prevent the abuse of children, Young People and Adults at Risk, and to respond to concerns about the well-being of Children, Young People and Adults at Risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered, or suspected will be reported in accordance with SBC safeguarding procedures. SBC will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support, and supervision of workers**

SBC will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with Children, Young People, and Adults at Risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support, and supervision to promote the safekeeping of Children, Young People, and Adults at risk.

- **Respecting Children, Young People and Adults at Risk**

SBC will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with Children, Young People, and Adults at Risk so that all Children, Young People, and Adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practices**

SBC is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for Children, Young People, and Adults at Risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

SBC is committed to the prevention of bullying. SBC will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to Children, Young People and Adults at Risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.



## Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team. Our preferred contact method is **via email** as this provides us with a written record of the concern. The following persons can all be contacted by emailing:

**safeguarding@streathambaptist.com**

Or by calling the 24hr designated safeguarding mobile number. The church office can also be contacted on 0208 769 1515 during working hours (commonly Monday – Friday from 10am – 3pm) on the landline shown. The mobile is active 24/7 however you may need to leave a voicemail with your contact details and we will return your call within 24hrs.

**07957 674 012**



*Where the matter is urgent and an individual is in imminent risk, please call 999. If you do call 999 or social services directly, please can you inform the Designated Safeguarding Person that you have done so and pass on details of the incident.*

### Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

- **Josephine Sheyin** (phone number as above)

The DPS will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults at Risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered, or suspected.



### Safeguarding Trustee

- **Jackie Ritter** (07957 674 160)

The Safeguarding Trustee will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.



### Minister for Safeguarding

- **Chris André-Watson** (07462 079 382)

The safeguarding minister will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures within the church.

*Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if (and when) issues arise. However, everybody has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.*



## Putting SBC's safeguarding policy into practice

- A copy of SBC's safeguarding policy statement is permanently displayed on the church noticeboard in the vestibule and is available on our church website.
- Every paid member of staff and volunteer working with Children, Young People, and/or Adults at risk will have access to a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and is expected to read and comply with them.
- A full copy of SBC's policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of the congregation, or other person associated with the church.
- SBC's safeguarding policy and procedures are monitored, reviewed and amended (where necessary) annually.
- An annual report is presented to the trustees regarding the outcome of SBC's annual safeguarding review. This should also include details of new, open and closed cases.
- SBC is committed to supporting, resourcing, and training those who undertake this work. Level 1 safeguarding materials are shown annually during a church service. All Church workers (paid and voluntary) who work with Children, Young People and Adults at Risk should attend Level 2 Baptists Together Safeguarding training and have undergone a DBS check before they are able to work unsupervised to ensure that they have the knowledge and confidence to deal with any safeguarding issues that may arise.
- SBC is dedicated to providing pastoral care and support to those who have experienced abuse.



## **Confidentiality, Duty of Care, Sharing Information: Ministers and Trustees**

SBC will maintain confidentiality at all times, except in circumstances where there may be a need for information sharing on a need-to-know basis.

Information on individuals where there are safeguarding concerns will only be shared:

- on a need-to-know basis, and
- to achieve the necessary outcome; to safeguard an individual from harm.
- where there may be a risk to safety of an individual or others or risk management or potential legal action may require Trustees being informed

In order to protect the person at risk, they will be allocated an alphanumeric identifier. Their name will only be disclosed on need to know basis. The Safeguarding team will decide when disclosure is appropriate.

This is known as the principle of PROPORTIONALITY. The amount of confidential information disclosed and the number of people to whom it is disclosed, should be no more than is strictly necessary to safeguard the individual at risk.

If a situation arises that may pose a degree of risk to the congregation, information should be shared with the Leaders, regarding the risk posed, as they hold corporate responsibility for the safety of those attending SBC. Full details may not be disclosed, but the information provided will enable the Leaders to make corporate decisions regarding assessing and managing the risk. E.g., the Leaders may not need all the details of a criminal record but should know that there is one and in what area and the risks this may pose. This hopefully would allow Leaders to understand the risks but keep the details as confidential as possible.

Where a safeguarding contract is required, the Safeguarding Team (Minister for Safeguarding, Designated Person for Safeguarding, Deputies, Safeguarding Trustee) should remain responsible for the risk assessment and formulation of the safeguarding contract. As per Baptist Together guidelines, the London Baptist Safeguarding Officer needs to be involved with the risk assessment and the advising/supplying of a suitable safeguarding contract. The completed safeguarding contract will be shared with the LB Safeguarding Officer before it is finalised.

The Safeguarding Team should keep the Leaders informed, in outline, of progress on the process. Once the above process is completed the safeguarding contract should be shared with the SBC Leaders. Once accepted/agreed the Safeguarding Team should manage both the risks and contract implementation. Most safeguarding contracts require a monitoring and review group to be established. This may or may not include other Leaders, depending on the expertise needed. Leaders will be aware of who is in the monitoring group. It may be decided that Leaders should approve this group. Contracts set out the frequency of reviews. Leaders will also need to be informed of any changes made as a result of a review.



## 1.5 - Safeguarding Referral Flow Chart

Please refer to the flow chart below for the procedures for responding to concerns.

### [STAGE 1]

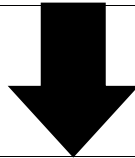
1

An individual who has a concern about the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk or the behaviour of someone who may pose a risk to another person has a duty to:

#### **RECORD AND REPORT...**

...a written legible record of the concern, preferably using the safeguarding email address ([safeguarding@streatham baptist.com](mailto:safeguarding@streatham baptist.com)). The concern should be reported to the *Designated Person* within 24 hours. (See incident report form in [\[Appendix A\]](#))

***If an adult at risk, child or young person is in imminent danger of harm a referral shall be made to the police or Social Services without delay (Lambeth Social Care 0207 926 5555). For other London Boroughs refer to the table below.***



### [STAGE 2]

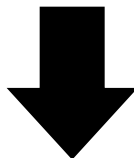
2

The Designated Person receives the report of concern. The Designated Person, Deputy, Safeguarding Trustee or Safeguarding Minister has a duty to:

#### **REVIEW AND REFER...**

...the report and any other relevant information for review by the safeguarding team and a decision as to further actions will be made. Any formal referral to Social Services shall be made as soon as possible preferably within 24 hours of receiving the report. The London Baptists Safeguarding Officer should be made aware of any referrals to social services.

***If a Child, Young Person or Adult at Risk is in imminent danger of harm a referral shall be made to the police or relevant Social Services without delay.***



### [STAGE 3]

3

After the decision has been made as to the action that shall be taken, the safeguarding and ministerial team have a duty to:

#### **SUPPORT AND REPORT.**

Support shall be offered to all parties affected by any safeguarding concerns. Where formal referrals are made, reports may need to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the Charity Commission.



## 1.6 - Social Services Contact Information

The following services may be contacted for help and/or advice where there are concerns regarding any child or young adult in the church or wider community:

Service	Contact information																																
Children Social Care  Contact if there are concerns about a child	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Lambeth 24hr</td> <td>0207 926 5555</td> <td>Out of Hours</td> <td>0208 314 6000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Croydon</td> <td>0208 726 6464</td> <td>Merton</td> <td>0208 545 4226/7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urgent</td> <td>0208 255 2888</td> <td>Out of Hours</td> <td>0208 770 5000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of Hours</td> <td>0208 726 6400</td> <td>Wandsworth</td> <td>0208 871 6622</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bromley</td> <td>0208 4617 373/79</td> <td>Out of Hours</td> <td>0208 871 6000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of Hours</td> <td>0300 303 8671</td> <td>Sutton</td> <td>0208 770 6001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewisham</td> <td>0208 314 6660</td> <td>Out of Hours</td> <td>0208 770 5000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urgent</td> <td>0208 314 9181</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Lambeth 24hr	0207 926 5555	Out of Hours	0208 314 6000	Croydon	0208 726 6464	Merton	0208 545 4226/7	Urgent	0208 255 2888	Out of Hours	0208 770 5000	Out of Hours	0208 726 6400	Wandsworth	0208 871 6622	Bromley	0208 4617 373/79	Out of Hours	0208 871 6000	Out of Hours	0300 303 8671	Sutton	0208 770 6001	Lewisham	0208 314 6660	Out of Hours	0208 770 5000	Urgent	0208 314 9181		
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Adult Social Services  Contact if there are concerns regarding an adult	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Sutton</td> <td>0208 770 6770 (<a href="mailto:referralpoint@sutton.gov.uk">referralpoint@sutton.gov.uk</a>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lambeth</td> <td>0207 926 5555</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wandsworth</td> <td>0208 871 7707</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merton</td> <td>0208 545 3983 or 0208 545 4388</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of Hours</td> <td>0845 618 9762</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Croydon</td> <td>0208 726 6500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewisham</td> <td>0208 314 7777</td> </tr> </table>	Sutton	0208 770 6770 ( <a href="mailto:referralpoint@sutton.gov.uk">referralpoint@sutton.gov.uk</a> )	Lambeth	0207 926 5555	Wandsworth	0208 871 7707	Merton	0208 545 3983 or 0208 545 4388	Out of Hours	0845 618 9762	Croydon	0208 726 6500	Lewisham	0208 314 7777																		
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London Baptists Safeguarding Officer	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@londonbaptist.org.uk">safeguarding@londonbaptist.org.uk</a> Contact if there are concerns about a child or adult at risk																																
Lambeth Safeguarding Board	Education Prevent Officer - Lydia Nixon - 0207 926 3668 <a href="mailto:Lnixon@lambeth.gov.uk">Lnixon@lambeth.gov.uk</a>  Contact if there are concerns about a child or adult at risk of extremism																																
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Danger: 999 Concern: FGM (NSPCC) 0800 028 3550																																
Child Sexual exploitation	Immediate: Danger 999 Unsure: contact NSPCC 0808 800 5000 Contact if you have concerns about a child																																
NSPCC	The National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children 0808 800 5000 Contact if you have concerns about a child																																
Childline	0800 1111 (24hrs) Contact if you have concerns about a child																																

Every council has their own procedures for referrals, the procedures for referrals in Lambeth can be found in [\[Appendix W\]](#)

IF THE DESIGNATED PERSON OR DEPUTY IS NOT AVAILABLE AND A DELAY WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE WELFARE OF A CHILDREN OR YOUNG PERSON, THEN ANY MEMBER OF STAFF OR VOLUNTEER CAN MAKE A REFERRAL DIRECTLY TO THE RELEVANT AGENCIES.