



Jesus Ministry UK Safeguarding Policy Statement

1. Scope

The care and protection of children, young people¹, vulnerable adults² (hereinafter referred to as Guests) and Jesus Ministry team members (hereinafter referred to as Team) involved in activities as part of Jesus Ministry (hereinafter referred to as JM) is the responsibility of everyone. Everyone who participates in the work and ministry of JM has a role to play in promoting a safer environment for all.

This document sets out the policy intent for the safeguarding of Guests receiving the ministry of JM.

The JM safeguarding policy offers six overarching policy commitments:

- ❖ Promoting a safe environment and culture;
- ❖ Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to Guests;
- ❖ Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- ❖ Responding to those who have experienced abuse or harm and other affected persons;
- ❖ Caring for Team members who may be the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons;
- ❖ Responding to those that may pose a present risk³ to others.

This policy applies to all JM Team Members.

A full understanding of, and adherence to, this policy should lead to a deepening in the understanding of, and respect for, the rights of Guests.

2. Introduction

JM is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its Ministry.

Safeguarding means the action JM takes to promote a safe culture. This means we will promote the welfare of Guests, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused.

JM will take appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment for all and to practise fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards Guests and Team; to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.

¹ Young people/person - means any individual(s) aged 14 to 17 years old

² Vulnerable adult - Section 6 Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 defines a 'vulnerable adult' as "a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired". The full text of the 2016 Measure is found at...
<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201516/jtselect/jtecc/79.pdf>.

³ Current risk - means poses a current and consequential risk of harm



3. Foundations

In developing and implementing the Safeguarding Policy, JM is guided by the following:

a) Gospel

JM is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.

b) Human Rights and the Law

JM recognises the personal dignity and rights of all our Guests, as enshrined in the Human Rights Act 1998 and the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Safeguarding work is undertaken within a legislative framework supported by government guidance which sets out a range of safeguarding duties, responsibilities and best practice. Safe recruitment practice is informed by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 with subsequent amendments in the Protection of Freedoms act 2012.

4. Core Principles

The following core principles underpin JM's approach to safeguarding practice:

- ❖ The welfare of the Guests and Team is paramount;
- ❖ Integrity, respect and listening to all;
- ❖ Transparency and openness;
- ❖ Accountability;
- ❖ Collaboration with key statutory authorities and other partners;
- ❖ Use of professional safeguarding advice and support;
- ❖ A commitment to the prevention of abuse;
- ❖ The active management of risk;
- ❖ Promoting a culture of informed vigilance;
- ❖ Regular evaluation to ensure best practice.

5. Good Safeguarding Practice⁴

The following key features will help JM promote and maintain a safe culture that protects and promote the welfare of Guests.

These features are:

- ❖ A leadership commitment, at all levels, to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Guests and Team;
- ❖ A safeguarding policy and appropriate procedures available to all Team Members;
- ❖ A clear line of accountability within JM for work on safeguarding;
- ❖ Clear reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations;
- ❖ Practice and services informed by on-going learning, review and by the views of Guests;
- ❖ Safe recruitment procedures for team in place;

⁴ Informed by Promoting a Safer Church (Church of England, 2017)



- ❖ Clear arrangements for support and/or supervision;
- ❖ Safeguarding training for all team Members working with or in contact with Guests;
- ❖ Effective working with, and signposting to, statutory and voluntary sector partners;
- ❖ Publicly available arrangements for Guests to be able to speak to an independent person as required;
- ❖ Complaints and whistleblowing procedures that are well publicised;
- ❖ Effective information sharing amongst team whilst maintaining confidentiality requirements;
- ❖ Good record keeping.

6. Policy Commitments

Based on the foundations outlined above JM commits to the following:

a) Promoting a safe environment and culture

All JM Team members will respect all Guests and promote their wellbeing.

JM will strive to create and maintain environments that are safe for all, that promote well-being, that prevent harm, and that create nurturing, caring conditions within the ministry of JM for Guests and Team. It will work to continue to strengthen and review these environments. This will be done by training, support, communication, learning, governance and quality assurance processes.

JM will strive to support all JM Team members to adhere to safe working good practice and ensure that processes are in place that listen to and advocate on behalf of Guests.

b) Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to Guests

JM will select and vet all those with any responsibility related to Guests through references from their own church leaders and /or DBS checks
It will train and equip Team Members to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support Guests and to recognise and respond appropriately to abuse. This will be done by supporting the roll-out of consistent and accessible safeguarding training.

c) Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation

Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or non-current abuse to the notice of the JM leadership team will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner.

All safeguarding work will be recorded.

All suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that reach the threshold for reporting to the statutory authorities, will be reported. This will be done irrespective of the status of the person. All JM Team will cooperate with the statutory authorities in all cases. In responding to concerns or allegations of abuse relating to a JM Team, the leadership will act in accordance with the requirements of criminal and civil law, and so will respect the rights and uphold the safeguards afforded to all parties involved.



d) Responding to those who have experienced abuse or harm and other affected persons

JM will endeavour to offer care and support to all those that have been abused, regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred. JM is committed to continuing to learn how to respond in a supportive and healing way to the needs of those who have suffered abuse.

Guests or team members who may have experienced harm through a JM team will receive a compassionate response, be listened to and be taken seriously.

JM will respond appropriately to any disclosure of abuse as part of the ministry (e.g. domestic abuse), or any disclosure of harm experienced by JM team. This will be done in collaboration with the relevant statutory agencies in accordance with criminal and civil law. They will be offered appropriate care and support - according to the agreed need and guest confidentiality.

An appropriate response to the family will be considered, with due regard to the right of privacy of those directly involved, and to the administration of justice.

e) Caring for Team members who may be the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons

JM in exercising its responsibilities to suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of abuse will endeavour to respect the rights under criminal and civil law of an accused JM Team member. A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory inquiry processes. As the process progresses, additional assessment, therapy and support services may be offered.

JM will take responsibility for ensuring that steps are taken to protect others when any JM Team member is considered a risk to Guests. This will be done by working to mitigate any identified risks according to a safeguarding agreement.

JM will be mindful of the need to provide support to members of families affected by The JM Team Member in such situations.

f) Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

JM will not knowingly use, either directly, or as a volunteer, anyone who poses a known present risk to others.

However, the prayer ministry and training offered by JM is available to all and we believe that God's healing power is available to everyone. Therefore, JM will be prepared to pray for those who pose a known present risk to other guests or Team members, but only with appropriate notice to ensure that properly trained Team Members are made available to carry out the Ministry, and with sufficient mitigation of identified risks. Some risks may require postponement of an appointment. We do not pray for people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They will not be invited into a Prayer time.



7. Putting the policy into action

The Policy Statement must actively underpin all safeguarding work JM and the drive to improve safeguarding practice.

JM will ensure that:

- ❖ All Team Members have access to this Policy Statement;
- ❖ The Policy Statement is promoted and publicised;
- ❖ JM's safeguarding message is communicated and reflects the policy;
- ❖ Appropriate procedures and guidelines are developed in support of the policy;
- ❖ All Team Members are aware that if they have concerns that guests or team may be at risk of being abused, or present a risk to others, they know how to follow Safeguarding guidelines and inform the relevant Safeguarding Officer
- ❖ Guests are aware that if they have concerns, they know how to report the matter to the relevant Safeguarding officer.

8. Specific action points

All JM ministry teams to receive safeguarding training as it relates to freedom prayer times

Every prayer appointment of a new guest involves the guest reading and signing the safeguarding consent form

Every JM prayer team captain has their DBS checked by their home church or can produce their DBS certificate

JM safeguarding Officer: Ian Dowsett, contact on 07908517934