

Section 1 – Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy for The Olive Branch (Faith in Action)

Agreed by the trustees of the Olive Branch (Faith in Action) at a meeting held on 07/03/2024.

The Olive Branch (Faith in Action) along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

As a consequence, we are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirm that their needs are paramount. We are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all our guests and workers of all ages.

We recognise that we have a particular care for all who are at risk whether due to disabilities, or by reduction in capacities, or by their situation. We recognise that this increased risk of harm may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible. This policy is intended to support the Olive Branch (Faith in Action) as a safe supportive and caring place for children, young people, adults at risk of harm, for survivors of abuse and for those affected by abuse.

We recognise the serious issue of the abuse of children and adults at risk and recognise that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media or human trafficking (slavery). We accept our responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in our care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. We accept our responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them.

The Olive Branch (Faith in Action) commits itself to:

1. **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or adult at risk may have been harmed, whether on our premises or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
2. Ensure the **IMPLEMENTATION** of Government legislation and guidance, and safe practice.
3. The **PROVISION** of support, advice and training for its workers to ensure that they are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be at risk of harm.
4. **AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children and adults at risk and acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding them.