



# Banbury and Evesham Quaker Area Meeting

## Safeguarding Policy

**This is the *Safeguarding Policy* for Banbury and Evesham Quaker Area Meeting. We follow Britain Yearly Meeting Guidance on Safeguarding. More detailed information on this advice can be obtained through the Area Meeting Clerks ([clerks@banburyeveshamquakers.org.uk](mailto:clerks@banburyeveshamquakers.org.uk)) or on-line at <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/safeguarding>.**

This policy has been written in line with central guidance on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and adults at risk in England and Wales. We have adopted this Policy and associated Procedures in accordance with statutory guidance and recommendations of the 2021 IICSA report into child protection in religious organisations and settings. This document was reviewed and approved by Area Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### Terms Used

We use the term “children and young people” to mean anyone aged under 18; this is interchangeable with “child” throughout the policy and procedures. We use the term “adults at risk” as used in government guidance; this includes “adults with care and support needs”, the term used in the Care Act 2014, and “vulnerable adults” used previously.

### Purpose and scope of this Policy

1. This document displays our commitment to keep people safe, especially children, young people and adults at risk who are engaged with meetings or activities within Banbury and Evesham Quaker AM.
2. This document provides members and attenders, as well as children, young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of children, young people and adults at risk in our Quaker communities.

**What we do;** a summary of our activities with children, young people and adults include;

- Meetings for Worship open to the public
- Social, learning and outreach activities and events
- Pastoral care
- Children and Young People’s Meetings are held in some meetings. They may be run by adult volunteers from the meeting. Special events and trips out are occasionally held and may include children, young people and adults. However, this area meeting does not organise events which do not include parents, guardians or carers accompanying vulnerable people.

- Care of adults: The meeting does not expect those who provide pastoral care (“Pastoral Friends”) or other volunteers acting on behalf of Area or Local Meeting, to provide regulated activities for adults such as personal care or regular support with activities such as financial affairs.
- Hiring policies relating to use of rooms in our buildings include consideration of Safeguarding.

## Our commitment

Abuse in any form is unacceptable and we are committed to keeping everyone safe. Everyone, including children, young people and at-risk adults, has a right to participate in Quaker communities without suffering harm, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. Quakers recognise ‘that of God’ in everyone. All people deserve respect, value and appropriate care. Our care extends to people who are potentially vulnerable to abuse and even to those who may be perpetrators. We recognise abuse can include, but is not limited to, physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect. We know that Quakers may be open to risks because we foster a culture of welcome and trust for all. We accept that often an abuser is known to or in a trusted relationship with the child or adult and that sometimes abusers can be covert manipulators.

### Responsibilities

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. Our Trustees hold specific responsibility on behalf of the Area Meeting (AM). One trustee is appointed as AM Safeguarding Link Trustee and Area Meeting appoints an AM Safeguarding Coordinator and a Deputy AM Safeguarding Coordinator with overall oversight of Safeguarding on behalf of Trustees done by Link Trustee but the work of safeguarding delegated to the Safeguarding Coordinators. **Contact details** for contacting our Safeguarding Coordinators and/or Deputies are on the poster displayed in each meeting house and at the bottom of this document.

### Safer Appointments/Recruitment

We recognise the need to follow safeguarding legislation and accepted good practice to reduce risk, both to vulnerable groups and to Quakers as an organisation. We have an established and complementary spirit-led Quaker nominations process. The primary focus of our processes to place individuals in roles is to prioritise the safety of our vulnerable groups.

### Training and Good Practice

Each individual in a role of responsibility will be appropriately trained according to their Role Description. Everyone involved in our Quaker activities will be familiar with our Code of Conduct, our Processes and Procedures and any specific safeguarding arrangements held locally. When we need safeguarding advice we use the online Safeguarding Manual from specialist Christian safeguarding agency Thirtyone:eight or their helpline: 0303 003 1111.

## Procedure for responding to concerns or allegations of abuse

Our Procedures document

(<https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/safeguarding-procedures-and-toolkit-area-meetings-reviewed-2023-04>) contains detailed information about how to respond to a Safeguarding concern. If someone is in immediate danger we will contact Police as soon as possible. If you cannot contact any AM Role Holder we suggest, as per BYM advice: Don't delay – call the police on 999, or call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, straight away. Our Safeguarding contact details can be found at the bottom of this document.

### Pastoral care

We will help those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the AM to access pastoral care and support, working with or referring to outside agencies as appropriate.

### Working with those who may pose a risk

When someone attending the local or area meeting is known to have abused others or is under investigation or known to be a risk to children or adults at risk the LM and AM will, where possible, be prepared to supervise the person and offer pastoral care. Robust arrangements will be put in place to protect children, young people and adults at risk. This may include supervision and boundary-setting, set out in a written contract to which they will be expected to adhere. Such a person will not be allowed to work with children, young people or adults at risk or have unsupervised contact with those groups.

### Room Hire

Each of our local meeting room's hire agreements will require that organisations and individuals hiring rooms on our premises take responsibility for safeguarding for all their activities. It will require that any organisation using our premises has their own safeguarding policy which follows national good practice, and has their own insurance in place.

### Regular Reviews

This policy is reviewed annually in the light of any new guidance, information or legislation. A more comprehensive review of all matters relating to Safeguarding will take place every three years.

#### Key Safeguarding Contacts

Safeguarding Coordinator: **Gill Grimshaw 07850683701**

Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator: **Maggie Guy 01295 788727**

Trustee Safeguarding Link Trustee: **Margaret Baldelli Tel: 01386 442910**

***Date: 10/08/23***

***Next Review Date: August 2024***