Leadership Safeguarding Statement

In providing this detailed statement about safeguarding children and adults within our church, in the services, groups and activities we provide, along with the interaction we have outside of these events, including through social media and other electronic communication means, the Trustees of Deal Pentecostal Church (hereafter referred to as 'Leadership') hope to demonstrate our commitment to ensuring the safety of all. We endeavour to provide a healthy and safe church culture where the welfare of the child, young person and adult is paramount. Whilst recognising that the very nature of safeguarding means that we have to respond to allegations both sensitively and confidentially, this does not mean secretively. We strive to be open, transparent and accountable. This means seeking advice and liaising with Social Services, Police and other agencies as necessary.

The following statement was agreed by the leadership on: 08/03/2026

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the abuse and neglect of children and adults and to report any such abuse or neglect that we discover or suspect.
- We are committed to the safeguarding of children and adults and ensuring their well-being. We recognise that children and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, as well as financial and discriminatory abuse and other forms of harm such as exploitation and neglect.
- We endorse and adopt the policy, procedures and guidance set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with governments' national legislation, statutory guidance and local safeguarding procedures.

As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding. We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

The Leadership undertakes to:

1. Promote a Safe & Healthy Church Culture

We respect the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We value and respect children and want to hear their voices.

We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to "all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status".

We understand the importance of creating a welcoming and inclusive, safe and healthy environment and are committed to ensuring that we meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, implementing all other relevant legislation as part of safeguarding.

We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures and practice guidance reflect this, so that adults can have access to every aspect of the life of our church.

We are committed to supporting parents and families and ensuring that our church is a safe place for all.

The church has appointed a Safeguarding Coordinator and a Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator as points of reference, to act on all allegations or suspicions of abuse in reporting to the statutory safeguarding authorities. In our commitment to openness, should anyone have a concern that our church or the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) have not dealt appropriately with a safeguarding concern we would encourage that person to make a direct referral to Social Services or the Police.

2. Work with Safeguarding authorities

We recognise the role that the statutory safeguarding authorities (Social Services and the Police) have in investigating all suspicions and allegations or discovery of child abuse and the abuse of adults and will cooperate fully with all agencies to protect those at risk of harm or abuse:

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there is a concern about a child.
- Adult Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse when concerned about the welfare of an adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.

We will follow the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations.
We will act in accordance with national and local safeguarding guidance such as laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and acknowledge that "safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility" and that "everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play".
We will liaise with the local statutory safeguarding partnerships such as the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) or any other local safeguarding mechanisms.
We shall ensure that our premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.
We are committed to building constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding and sharing relevant information.

3. Support those in our Church who serve Children and Adults

The Leadership have appointed a Safeguarding Coordinator and a Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator to respond to any safeguarding concern or suspicion of abuse. The Leadership fully supports them in their role of acting in the best interest of the child or adult and reporting to the statutory authorities all allegations or suspicions of abuse.
We commit to providing safeguarding training and development opportunities for all our workers (paid and voluntary) and will regularly review the training needs, and the operational guidelines attached to this policy.
We will also support, resource, monitor and provide supervision to all those who undertake work with children or adults, and those in positions of trust.
We commit to providing induction training for all those working with children and adults. We take seriously our responsibility for ensuring that everyone is safe in our care and that their dignity and rights are maintained.

4. Safeguarding in Practice

We commit to supporting, listening to, and working towards healing for everyone affected; either directly or indirectly by any form of abuse.

We are a welcoming Church, which recognises that in following our mission, we may have sexual offenders join us. In such circumstances we will talk with the person concerned, and with any safeguarding professional involved to ensure that their involvement in church does not compromise the safety and well-being of children or adults. To ensure this we will take appropriate and proportionate measures, including working with relevant partners to complete a risk assessment and asking the individual to adhere to a safeguarding agreement.

We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults who find themselves victims of forced marriage or modern slavery and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.

Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be closely managed by the Church Leadership Team reporting to the Trustees where appropriate. Any safeguarding concerns will be managed using our safeguarding procedures and through obtaining professional guidance where appropriate. Where an allegation or suspicion of abuse is made against someone working with children, or adults, or is in a position of trust, then the safeguarding officer(s) will make contact with our designated professional safeguarding advisors for advice.

We shall support the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults.

It is the expectation that all those working with children and with adults have access to the church safeguarding policy and will have read it and agreed to fully adhere to the policy, procedures and practice guidelines, as condition of continuing in their role.

We will review this statement, together with our policy and procedures annually.

All safeguarding concerns should be immediately reported to the Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator in the church. No one in receipt of a disclosure of abuse, or suspicion of abuse should investigate the matter.

Child Safeguarding Coordinator	**Margaret Fermor**
Deputy Child Safeguarding Coordinator	**Mark Toogood**
A**dult Safeguarding Coordinator**	**Margaret Fermor**
Deputy Adult Safeguarding Coordinator	**Joy Crick**

Copies of the full policy and procedures are available from the Church Website or Office

For Adult Safeguarding concerns you may also contact

Kent County Council's Central Referral Unit (CRU) for Thanet and South Kent Coast:

SafeguardingadultsTSKC@kent.gov.uk

Reviewed and accepted Signed *PSFermor* **08/03/2026**

Signed on behalf of the Leadership of Deal Pentecostal Church