



The United Reformed Church (Northern Province) Trust Limited

Registered Charity 1132154 (England) : Company 134549 (England) : Limited by guarantee

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

The United Reformed Church (Northern Province) Trust Limited operates as a charitable company limited by guarantee. The purpose of the Trust is to support the life and work of the United Reformed Churches across the Northern Synod. The company's articles of association confer various powers, including powers to hold, maintain and administer property, money and investments; to buy and sell property and investments; and to take over any assets legally transferred to the Trust.

Trust Safeguarding Responsibilities and Activities

To fulfil its role, the Trust conducts its business through a series of Board meetings and regular committee meetings. The Trust therefore does not directly seek to engage with children or adults at risk in its regular business.

The Trust is the trustee for the majority of church buildings in the Synod and delegates responsibility for church buildings and associated safeguarding arrangements for those attending the premises to the trustees of the local church (or equivalent).

The Trust employs officers and staff to support Synod activity as well as to ensure the Trust business is conducted well and efficiently. On occasion some committee members may visit churches. Some Trust employees may work directly with children or adults at risk in their day to day work.

Trust business is determined by decisions made by the Synod Meeting of the Northern Synod. The Trust therefore chooses to adopt the Northern Synod Safeguarding Policy as the operating safeguarding procedures for Trust staff.

Policy Regarding Local Churches

The Trust requires all local churches to comply with the URC *Good Practice 4 – Safeguarding Comprehensive Guide for Synods and Assembly* and associated guidance (see <http://www.urc.org.uk/good-practice-policy-and-procedures.html>). The Trust requires churches to have a church safeguarding policy and to take account of the Northern Synod Safeguarding policy (see <http://urc-northernsynod.org/safeguarding>).

Churches will be notified that the Trust requires all church premises in the Northern Synod to comply with statutory safeguarding and associated health and safety requirements relevant to them.

In recognition of this arrangement the Trust will require all grant and loan applications to be dependent upon evidence of an up to date and effective safeguarding policy.

Policy Regarding Trust Employees

Trust employees are expected to comply with the Staff Code of Conduct.

The appointment of employees will be dependent upon satisfactory checks including those with the Disclosure and Barring Service, where relevant.

Trust employees are required to take account of the Northern Synod Safeguarding Policy and to follow the procedures detailed within it.

Code of Conduct for Trust Directors and Volunteers

It is recognised that the Trust's Directors and committee members give their time and energies voluntarily or as part of their ministerial vocation. To this end the Trust asks that all engaged with Trust business comply with the Trust's volunteer role description including the Code of Conduct.

Procedure

Given the close association between the Trust and the Synod, the Trust chooses to adopt the procedures outlined in the Northern Synod Safeguarding Policy.

Adherence and Review

Directors and committee members will be asked to confirm they have read the policy and that they agree to adhere to it.

The Trust recognises its role and responsibilities as a charity operating in Newcastle and details of the Newcastle Safeguarding Boards can be found here:

<https://www.nscb.org.uk/>

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/safeguarding-and-abuse/safeguarding-information-professionals/newcastle-safeguarding-adults-board>

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Adopted on: 4 February 2017

Last reviewed: 1 February 2018