



## Derby Safeguarding Children Board

### **“Keeping Children Safe in our Faith Communities” Working with Faith Organisations in Derby Safeguarding Strategy**

“Churches, other places of worship and faith-based organisations provide a wide range of activities for children and have an important role in safeguarding children and supporting families.” Taken from the national guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Like other organisations who work with children faith –based organisations need to have appropriate arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Derby Safeguarding Children Board works to support all faith-based organisations so that children are safe and able to enjoy and reach their potential through the support provided by their Faith Communities.

#### **Aims**

The aims of this strategy are to:

- Engage all faith-based organisations to effectively safeguard children.
- Raise awareness with faith-based organisations of the types of harm that have occurred to children, how they can help prevent harm from happening in their setting and respond to any concerns raised with them.
- Promote positive links between faith-based organisations and their local community services such as schools.
- Raise awareness in local communities about keeping children safe and the role of faith-based organisations.
- Reassure parents and carers about what they should do if they are worried about a child and how concerns are looked into.

#### **How this will be achieved:**

- Deliver briefings to faith-based organisations in Derby prioritising the following faith-based organisations in 2016-2017: Christian (Anglican and Catholic); Hindu; Muslim and Sikh. (See Appendix 1)
- Provide updated resources to assist governance arrangements within faith-based organisations.
- Provide Safeguarding Training for anyone involved in faith-based organisations.

- Promote links between faith-based organisations and local schools
- Deliver ongoing safeguarding briefings and increase the range of faith-based organisations engaged.
- Provide information for parents, children and young people through schools and on the DSCB website to raise awareness in local communities how to keep children safe and the role of faith-based organisations.
- Provide information for parents and the community setting out expectations of how children should be treated, what they can do if they are worried about a child and what will happen.

### **Development and reviewing the strategy**

The Derby Safeguarding Children Board will involve key leaders from faith-based organisations to help to develop and update the strategy.

The Derby Safeguarding Children Board will report on an annual basis on the progress that has been made to support the work of faith-based organisations to keep children safe. This will include the successes of individual organisations and general areas for development that are needed.

### **Involvements**

The following individuals and organisations were involved in the development of this strategy.

With thanks to:

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## **“Keeping Children Safe in our Faith Communities”**

### **Safeguarding resources for faith-based organisations in Derby.**

The Derby Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) will provide resources that enable different faiths to share information about keeping children safe and use materials in ways that are suitable for their organisation and audiences.

For example: some organisations might choose to start by helping members of the community understand how children can be kept safe, some organisations might chose to start by helping key members within their organisation to explore issues before extending the sessions to larger groups from the community.

Christian (Anglican and Catholic), Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faith-based organisations will be invited to meet with staff from the Derby Safeguarding Children Board to discuss in detail how they can be supported with materials within their setting.

The use of the resources will be agreed with individual organisations.

#### **Outline for the resources available:**

The content that will be provided to organisations individually or with other organisations who share the same faith will be agreed in preparation for any events. The following topics can be covered in different ways depending on the view of the organisation(s).

#### **1. Bringing up children safely**

An explanation will be provided to explain what we are trying to achieve as a community to keep children safe in our faith communities and why we need the help and support of leaders in faith-based organisations to keep children safe in Derby.

This will cover

- Safety of children
- Expectations in society of how children are treated
- Cohesiveness of our community
- Integrity of Faith Organisations
- Liability (and adherence to Government Guidance and Safeguarding Procedures)

#### **2. How faith based organisations and communities can help to keep children safe.**

Safeguarding children is a term used to cover a range of things that faith-based organisations can do to help children and young people grow up in a successful and safe way and resources will explore this.

Individual organisations who share the same faith may provide very different services and involve children and young people in different ways.

The resources will explore how individual organisations carry out their work and how they can make sure that throughout what they do, it is being done well and helping children to be safe.

The resources will cover what can be done to prevent abuse and neglect and keep children safe and discuss:

- How organisations can make sure their environment is suitable and safe;
- How and when the adults and volunteers in an organisation are recruited and need to be checked to make sure they are safe;
- How the activities, including teaching, are suitable and the support that can be obtained locally to support faith-based organisations;
- How to respond to concerns if a someone, including a child or young person, raises concerns about the safety of a child, or adult;
- How to respond to concerns about someone volunteering or working with children, including if it becomes apparent that someone has been convicted of harm to a child or adult;
- How faith-based organisations can work with other organisations, such as schools, to help families who need extra support.

Faith-based organisations will be asked for a view about whether they are able to support other organisations if concerns are raised about members of staff and how these concerns are looked into.

### **3. Engaging with the community to keep children safe**

Different organisations will have a range of opportunities to engage parents and members of the community in discussions and sermons about their role along with that of the organisation, local schools and services to help keep children safe.

The DSCB team will provide outline information that can be used to deliver information or engage parents and community members in discussion about safeguarding.

The DSCB team will work with faith-based organisations to produce book marks for children and leaflets for the community that promote safety for children and offer key points of contact.

### **4. Future resources and training**

The DSCB team will provide information to faith-based organisations about:

- Free training for staff or volunteers – this will include safeguarding training but might also include support from local schools in support for teachers in faith-based organisations about different ways to engage pupils in learning
- Resources for faith-based organisations to use with their community to raise awareness of key issues that can help children be safe
- Linking up with their local schools to promote the active role faith-based organisations have in the community and how this helps to keep children safe.