



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Seahouses Hostel provides residential and activity facilities in a faith-based environment. The hostel is in North Sunderland, Seahouses, north Northumberland.

WE RECOGNISE THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Live in a safe, secure, stable and loving environment
- Be protected from all forms of harm, including abuse and exploitation
- Have a voice, and to be heard
- Be valued and respected, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability or other distinction
- Be treated as an individual with particular needs and particular gifts

CREATING A SAFESPACE

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN WHEN YOU HIRE SEAHOUSES HOSTEL?

- **People** who are chosen/recruited with care, are trained for their role and supported and supervised
- **Procedures and Guidelines** to be clear which information you need to give us prior to and during your visit
- **Good Practice** where activities are managed and run properly and safely in line with the Newcastle Diocesan guidelines
- **Safe Place/Premises** where the building has been assessed and reviewed for its suitability and safety
- **Support**, if requested when dealing with challenging situations so that the appropriate response may be made



The Hostel Management Committee and Staff are committed to **Creating a Safe Space** for all who visit the hostel, attached buildings and outside environment including the Church of St Paul's and the Church grounds. A member of the Hostel Management Committee, **Canon Tony Macpherson has been appointed to ensure correct safeguarding procedures. He can be contacted on 07780 990354.**

In addition to the information outlined in this document the Management Committee adopts the guidelines published in the **Newcastle Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines.**

You may download this from the website:

<http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding/introduction.aspx>

We will also provide, on request:

- Copies of our Fire and Insurance policies
- Generic risk assessments to which you should add your own programmed activities, if needed
- Access to a suitable independent listener via a display in the hostel alongside Childline posters

In addition to following the guidelines in our Newcastle Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook we expect all those who hire Seahouses Hostel to adhere to the following conditions:

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- All visits should have a group leader who will have overall responsibility for supervision of the visit. This person will be the first point of contact for hostel staff.
- All leaders and staff/volunteers should be recruited according to the Safer Recruitment Practice (of the organisation to which you belong) and must be DBS checked.
- Mixed gender groups should have sufficient adult staff of both genders involved to maintain an appropriate balance.
- The appropriate ratio of adults to children/ young people must always be maintained taking into account the age range, gender and proposed activities, and these should be increased as necessary for children with special needs or behavioural difficulties.
- Every group should be led by at least two adults, however small the group.
- There should be at least one qualified First Aider who will take responsibility for the group.
- Children aged 16 and 17 can act as "helpers" but should not count towards ratios of staff and volunteers to children.
- There should be no smoking or consumption of alcohol or drugs on the premises.



ACCOMMODATION AND ACTIVITIES

- Ensure that staff and volunteers have familiarised themselves with the Emergency Procedures for Seahouses
- Carry out a fire drill at the earliest possible opportunity
- Report any health and safety hazards or other concerns immediately

SLEEPING ARRANGMENTS

- Male and female children and young people should have separate sleeping and washing facilities which are private to them
- Adults should have separate accommodation to the youngsters they are supervising

SAFEGUARDING

- No images or video footage should be made in an area of personal privacy e.g. toilet or sleeping areas
- All Leaders, staff and volunteers should know who to go to if abuse is disclosed, or they have any other safeguarding concern. This should be in line with their organisation's requirements. **The Hostel also has an independent listener: Carol Butler, who can be contacted if required. She is a Safeguarding Advisor within the Newcastle Diocese and her telephone number is: 07825 167016**
- Ground rules should be agreed by the entire group regarding unacceptable behaviour, including bullying, harassment or appropriate boundaries

The Hostel Management Committee will review its guidelines each year, in line with Diocesan Regulations, or sooner if required. All changes will be communicated to visitors prior to their stay in the hostel.

Canon Tony Macpherson [Signed Electronically]

Signature of Safeguarding Officer - Management Committee:

Date: 4 Nov 2022