

*Just as the shepherd guards the flock,
so responsible church leaders seek
to protect the children and young people entrusted to their care.*

MCC Newcastle Safeguarding Policy

a) Statement

Metropolitan Community Church Newcastle ("MCCN" or "the Church") regards child protection and good working practice as a priority. In the interests of the safety and well being of all children and young people who attend worship or events, the Church has developed and operates a safeguarding children and young people policy.

This policy document indicates our commitment to and acceptance of our responsibility to protect the welfare of the children and young people in our church community. MCCN believes that all children and young people have a right to protection from abuse, violence and exploitation.

Metropolitan Community Church Newcastle recognises that child protection is everyone's responsibility and:

- is committed to supporting parents and families.
- recognises the unique and individual worth of each child.
- is committed to nurturing, protecting and safeguarding children and young people and will liaise with appropriate agencies in all safeguarding matters.
- exercises care in the appointment of all those working with children and young people in the church, working to 'Safe from Harm' principles.
- is committed to following statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in working with and protecting children and young people.
- seeks to support all those affected by abuse.
- is committed to supporting, training and resourcing those who work with children and young people and provide regular supervision.
- will review its child protection policy annually.

MCCN is committed to ensuring that everyone working with children or young people:

- has undergone a Criminal Records Bureau check.
- is adequately trained and supervised.
- understands and follows the Church's policies.

The above policy statement will apply equally to any work undertaken on behalf of the Church in relation to vulnerable adults.