

# East Cheshire Area Meeting (ECAM)



## Safeguarding Policy

Please refer to the supporting documents **ECAM Safeguarding Procedures** and **ECAM Safeguarding Toolkit** for more detailed information on our organisation and practices.

This Policy has been written in line with legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and adults at risk in England and Wales. We have adopted this Policy and associated Procedures in accordance with statutory guidance.

We use the term “children and young people” to mean anyone aged under 18 years; this is interchangeable with “child” throughout the policy and procedures. We use the term “adults at risk” as used in government guidance; this includes “adults with care and support needs”, the term used in the Care Act 2014, and “vulnerable adults” used previously.

### **Purpose and scope of this Policy**

1. This document displays our commitment to keep people safe, especially children, young people and adults at risk who are engaged with meetings or activities within East Cheshire Area Meeting.
2. This document provides members and attenders, as well as children, young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of children, young people and adults at risk in our Quaker communities.

### **Activities covered by this Policy**

ECAM undertakes the following activities for adults, children and young people:

- Meetings for Worship open to the public
- Social, learning and outreach activities and events
- Pastoral care
- Children and Young People’s Meetings - held weekly (or less frequently) in some meetings, and run by adult volunteers from the meeting. Special events and trips out are occasionally held for children, young people and adults. These may include sleeping overnight.
- Residential events are occasionally organised for adults and children
- Pastoral Care: The meeting does not expect those who provide pastoral care (“Pastoral Friends”) or other volunteers acting on behalf of the meeting to provide regulated activities for adults such as personal care or regular support with activities such as financial affairs
- Projects e.g. the Peace Pathways Project
- Hiring out rooms in our buildings

### **Our commitment**

Abuse in any form is unacceptable and we are committed to keeping everyone safe. Everyone, including children, young people and at-risk adults, has a right to participate in

Quaker communities without suffering harm, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Quakers recognise 'that of God' in everyone. All people deserve respect, value and appropriate care. Our care extends to people who are potentially vulnerable to abuse and even to those who may be perpetrators. We recognise abuse can include, but is not limited to, physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect.

We know that Quakers may be open to risks because we foster a culture of welcome and trust for all. We accept that often an abuser is known to or in a trusted relationship with the child or adult and that sometimes abusers can be covert manipulators.

ECAM maintains a subscription to the specialist safeguarding advisory service for churches and faith groups, Thirtyone: eight. This ensures we can access expert safeguarding support and guidance on a 24-hour basis.

### **Responsibilities**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our Trustees hold specific responsibility on behalf of the Area Meeting, and one Trustee is designated as **Lead Safeguarding Trustee**.

The Area Meeting also appoints a **Safeguarding Coordinator** and a **Safeguarding Deputy**, who may or may not be Trustees. Safeguarding work is delegated as agreed between the Lead Safeguarding Trustee and the Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy. A named Area Meeting Pastoral Friend provides support to the Trustee and Coordinator as and when needed.

Contact details for our Lead Safeguarding Trustee and Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy are on the posters displayed in each meeting house, and also at the bottom of this document.

### **Safer Appointments/Recruitment**

We recognise the need to follow safeguarding legislation and accepted good practice to reduce risk, both to vulnerable groups and to Quakers as an organisation. We also have an established and complementary spirit-led Quaker nominations process. The primary focus of our processes to place individuals in roles is to prioritise the safety of our vulnerable groups.

### **Training and Good Practice**

Each individual in a role of responsibility will be appropriately trained according to their Role Description. Everyone involved in our Quaker activities will be familiar with our Code of Conduct, our Policies and Procedures and any specific safeguarding arrangements held locally.

When we need safeguarding advice we use the online Safeguarding Manual from specialist Christian safeguarding agency Thirtyone: eight or their helpline: 0303 003 1111.

### **Procedure for responding to concerns or allegations of abuse**

Our Procedures document contains detailed information about how to respond to a safeguarding concern. If someone is in immediate danger we will contact the Police as

soon as possible. Our Safeguarding contact details can be found at the bottom of this document.

### **Pastoral care**

We will help those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the Area Meeting to access pastoral care and support, working with or referring to outside agencies as appropriate.

### **Working with those who may pose a risk**

When someone attending the local or area meeting is known to have abused others or is under investigation or known to be a risk to children or adults at risk, professional safeguarding advice will be sought. The local and area meetings will be prepared to supervise the person and offer pastoral care. Robust arrangements will be put in place to protect children, young people and adults at risk. This may include supervision and boundary-setting, set out in a written contract to which all parties will be expected to adhere. A person identified as posing a risk will not be allowed to work with children, young people or adults at risk or have unsupervised contact with those groups.

### **Room Hire**

Each of our local meeting's room hire agreements will require that organisations and individuals hiring rooms on our premises take responsibility for safeguarding for all their activities. The agreements will require that any organisation using our premises has their own safeguarding policy which follows national good practice, and has their own insurance in place.


### **Regular Reviews**

This policy will be reviewed annually in the light of any new guidance, information or legislation. A more comprehensive review will take place every three years.

### **Key Safeguarding Contacts**

Lead Safeguarding Trustee:	Sue Pounder	Tel. 07746 785 743
Safeguarding Coordinator:	Sue Pounder	Tel. 07746 785 743
Safeguarding Deputy:	Anne Sumner	Tel. 07791 697 492

email: [ecamsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:ecamsafeguarding@gmail.com)

Agreed by Area Meeting (date)	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Minute number	25.09.08
Signed by Peter Eccles (Clerk to Area Meeting)	
Date for next annual review by Trustees	August 2026
The role-holder responsible for starting the next review	Lead Safeguarding Trustee