



Glasgow Street Pastors

Safeguarding Policy

Commitment

Glasgow Street Pastors (GSP) places a high priority on keeping our staff, volunteers and those we work with safe. We sometimes work in very difficult situations and with people who are vulnerable and / or show challenging behaviour. Our policy and training are designed to minimise risk to all concerned, while remaining faithful to our mission to listen to, care for and help people.

This Safeguarding Policy is written under the umbrella of the much fuller Ascension Trust Safeguarding Policy and should be read in conjunction with it.

Responsibilities

The Management Team and in particular the Chair, has overall responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy.

As line manager for staff, the Chair is responsible for ensuring that staff are safe in the course of their duties.

As the person responsible for training, the Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring that all Street Pastors are adequately trained in safeguarding.

Team leaders in charge of small teams are responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented in the course of Street Pastor duties. They are also responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns encountered during shifts.

The Safeguarding Team, consisting of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Co-ordinator is responsible for managing safeguarding issues and for reporting serious issues or incidents to Ascension Trust Scotland Safeguarding Team.

Recruitment

GSP practises safe recruitment. We require the completion of an application form, taking up references, an interview and a trial shift before anyone is accepted to our training programme. Our current assessment is that our work constitutes Regulated Work with Protected Adults as defined in the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 and we therefore require new recruits to undergo a relevant Disclosure Check and become members of the PVG Scheme.

Training

We will ensure that all staff and volunteers are adequately trained for the roles they fulfil. In particular:

- All new Street Pastors will receive safeguarding training before they are commissioned.
- No-one may lead a small team without having undergone safeguarding training.
- Team leaders will be made aware of the particular responsibilities they have for managing and reporting on safeguarding.
- Members of the Safeguarding Team will be professionally competent to manage safeguarding issues.
- Our refresher / development training, delivered every 3 years, will include updates on safeguarding.

Our voluntary work

Our training will help Street Pastors to be prepared (as far as possible) for situations we encounter. In particular, we are concerned about:

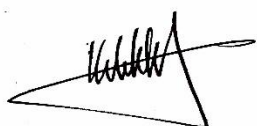
- Protecting vulnerable people in our care – from physical harm (e.g. violence, injury, weather), from emotional harm through providing confidential and caring support and by preserving their human dignity in every way possible.
- Protecting our volunteers – in situations where physical violence occurs, where there are incidents which may be emotionally or spiritually harrowing and in travelling to and from shifts.
- Knowing the limitations of our capabilities and authority – knowing when to call for help from statutory and other agencies, whether medical, police, Social Work or other relevant body.

Management of Safeguarding

- Safeguarding concerns identified on shift will be reported to the Coordinator.
- Other concerns may be reported to any member of the Safeguarding Team.
- The Management Team will have safeguarding as a standing item on its agenda (topics anonymised if appropriate).
- Serious issues will be referred to the Ascension Trust Scotland Safeguarding Team.
- The Chair will be responsible for making referrals to Scottish Ministers under the PVG legislation should the circumstances require it.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its continued suitability. The work of GSP in relation to the PVG legislation will be reviewed at the same time.



Chair, Glasgow Street Pastors