

Safeguarding Policy

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Section 1 - Overview

Spring Harvest is one of the largest Christian events of its type in Europe. It offers Christians the opportunity to learn together and be challenged about their faith within a residential holiday setting involving teaching and worship for all ages. The event normally takes place at Butlin's resorts in Skegness and Minehead over the Easter period.

Our commitment

Spring Harvest recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults at events. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect.

We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to "all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status".

As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this Safeguarding Policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

Spring Harvest undertakes to:

- endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
- provide on-going safeguarding training for Event Safeguarding Advisors and awareness training and clear signposting for all workers and volunteers, appropriate to their role.
- liaise with Butlin's to ensure that venues at the Skegness and Minehead resorts meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation and remain welcoming and inclusive to all.
- support the Spring Harvest Event Safeguarding Advisors in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults with care and support needs.

Definitions

A child or young person shall be defined as: 'anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday'.

Abuse shall be defined as: 'a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons and, for the purposes of safeguarding children, shall include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, bullying and hazing.'

Harm shall be defined as: 'Ill treatment and forms of ill treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical) and also the impairment of or an avoidable deterioration in physical or mental health and the impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.' 'Harm' may be caused by acts of commission and acts of omission.

Section 1 – Overview

continued

Team Members

Spring Harvest has a vast team of employed staff, workers and volunteers that facilitate the running of events. Those roles which are most likely to be involved in a safeguarding matter include:

Event Coordinator

Employee and Senior Manager of Essential Christian, assigned to give oversight to a particular Spring Harvest event location (Skegness or Minehead)

Event Safeguarding Advisor

Employee of Essential Christian, responsible for the oversight and coordination of safeguarding matters across the event. Primary point of liaison for all safeguarding issues and where contact is required with outside agencies.

Event Leadership Team

Experienced Christian leaders with oversight of specific programme areas of the Spring Harvest Event. The Event Leadership Team are normally volunteers.

Programme Leaders

Each children's / youth programme has a leader with considerable experience gained through working with children of that age group, either from other Christian events, within other Christian organisations, or in the education sector.

Area Leader

A core team of Area Leaders assist Programme Leaders by taking responsibility for specific age-groups within a particular kids programme (Kids 0-4, 5-7 or 8-11).

Venue Manager

A volunteer appointed to liaise with Spring Harvest and Butlin's management teams to ensure security and safety of venues.

Pastoral Team

Qualified, accredited counsellors offering prayer and signposting help to guests

Disability Consultant

Consultant experienced in working with those who have disabilities.

Team Members

Volunteers who assist in the running of the programme.

Section 2 - Prevention

Understanding abuse and neglect

Spring Harvest recognises that, during the Event the following may happen:

- Children, young people or adults may disclose alleged abuse to team members.
- Signs of possible abuse may be observed by team members.
- Concerns or allegations may arise about the behavior of a team member towards a child, young person or adult.
- Concerns or allegations may arise about the behavior towards a child or children of others on site, who are not on team.
- Children, young people or adults may disclose that they are or have a desire to self-harm or signs of possible self-harm may be observed by team members.
- Children may disclose that they have caused harm to another child or may pose a future risk to other children.
- Adults may disclose past or ongoing abuse

Safer recruitment process

Employees of Essential Christian (Spring Harvest), including the Event Safeguarding Advisors are subject to a formal application process when joining the organisation. A job description is made available and a panel-interview is conducted. Background checks are taken-up and all employees are provided with a copy of our Safeguarding Policy and given awareness and signposting training, appropriate to their role. Our Event Safeguarding Advisors undertake in-depth training for safeguarding leads with Thirtyone:eight and are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Spring Harvest systematically background check all volunteer Programme Leaders for the event, Area Leaders, Pastoral Team, Disability Consultants, and other team members to ensure that they are suitable to work with children, young people and adults with care and support needs.

When considering people to fulfil these roles, Spring Harvest looks for qualifications, as well as skills and experience relevant to the age group that the individual will be serving. In addition, as a Christian organisation we also consider Christian faith, wider experience and maturity for the role and a sympathy with the aims and objectives of Spring Harvest.

- There is a written role outline for volunteer team roles
- Volunteers complete an on-line registration form which includes a self-declaration
- A disclosure and barring check is completed where eligible (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information).
- Satisfactory written references are obtained

Section 2 – Prevention

continued

Team Members 16-18yrs.

Young people aged between 16-18yrs are sometimes involved at Spring Harvest on the Children's programme teams. They must be supervised at all times and are not included in adult: child ratios. They must go through the same application and vetting procedures as all other team members.

Under-18 team members must complete a consent form, signed by their parent/legal guardian and this must specify a responsible adult who will be present with them, and accommodated with them at the event.

Team Members from Overseas

Each year Spring Harvest receives a few volunteer applications from people from overseas. If they have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months Spring Harvest will ask them to obtain a Criminal Records Check or Certificate of Good Conduct from their home country. In such cases, the volunteer will not be allowed unsupervised access to children. Spring Harvest will also check the visas of all overseas applicants, as applicable, to ensure their conditions of entry into the UK allow them to serve at Spring Harvest. Serving at Spring Harvest cannot be the reason an applicant uses to apply for a visa, they must be coming to or be in the UK for another purpose, such as to study, to do missionary or other voluntary work.

Safeguarding training

Spring Harvest is committed to providing appropriate safeguarding training for all workers and volunteers that are involved at events. It is important to create a culture of awareness of safeguarding, ensuring workers and volunteers know where to seek advice and share concerns. All workers will receive our *Quick Guide to Safeguarding* with a link to our full *Safeguarding Policy*, as well as an awareness and signposting briefing, appropriate for their role.

The Leadership will also ensure that children and adults with care and support needs are signposted to information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

- Children's teams are required to attend a training day in advance of the event
- Those working with children and young people are required to participate in a team briefing at the start of each event which includes safeguarding awareness training and signposting.

Management of Workers – Codes of Conduct

As a Leadership we are committed to supporting all workers and ensuring they receive support and supervision. Our team are issued with a code of conduct and the Event Leadership Team are available to discuss any matters of concern that arise during the event. Our Event Safeguarding Advisors are also available to support those working with children, young people and adults with care and support needs. Our Safeguarding Policy provides the framework for handling the escalation of any safeguarding matter.

Section 3 - Practice Guidelines

Spring Harvest is committed to running safe events for children, young people and adults with care and support needs. We therefore wish to operate and promote good working practices. This will enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false or unfounded accusation.

As well as a general code of conduct for workers we also have specific good practice guidelines.

Removal from team on site

Where a member of Team is removed from duties due to their behaviour, a report will be compiled by the Programme Leader and given to the Event Safeguarding Advisor who will retain it for future reference.

The decision to remove someone from a children's or youth team must be made jointly by the Event Leadership Team member responsible for the children's or youth programme, the Event Safeguarding Advisor and the Event Coordinator.

Where conduct brings into question suitability to work with children or adults with care and support needs, the Event Safeguarding Advisor will obtain advice from Thirtyone:eight, as a referral may need to be made to the DBS to consider whether the individual should be barred. If the matter has been referred to a statutory agency, the Event Safeguarding Advisor must be informed.

Any manager designated by Butlin's who may need to be informed of alleged incidents that have taken place at the Resorts will be kept informed.

Working in Partnership

The diversity of organisations and settings means there can be great variation in practice when it comes to safeguarding children, young people and adults. This can be due to cultural tradition, belief and religious practice or understanding, for example, over what constitutes abuse.

We therefore have clear guidelines in regard to our expectations of those with whom we work in partnership, whether in the UK or not. All representatives of partner organisations, including exhibitors and contractors will be provided with a copy of our *Quick Guide to Safeguarding* and full Safeguarding Policy.

We believe good communication is essential in promoting safeguarding.

Section 3 - Practice Guidelines

continued

Known Offenders and those who may pose a risk to others

Anyone who is on licence, or subject to a covenant of care or a safeguarding agreement with their church, is required to make contact with our Event Safeguarding Advisor before applying for a place on the Team. The Event Safeguarding Advisor can be contacted at safeguarding@springharvest.org.

Due to the nature and context of the event, Spring Harvest reserves the right to decline entry to anyone who is deemed to pose a potential safeguarding risk. Those who have been or remain on the Sex Offenders Register will not be permitted onto the Butlin's resort and will therefore be precluded from being on the Spring Harvest team.

Where an individual with criminal convictions is not deemed to pose a safeguarding risk to others, a full risk-assessment will be conducted by the Event Safeguarding Advisor before a recruitment decision is made. This will consider all necessary communication with the police, church and other relevant authorities and there will be a clear reason recorded for any decision not to liaise with any of these agencies or organisations. All such information will be treated as confidential and will only be shared with agencies as required.

Where an application is declined on safeguarding grounds, the reasons will be explained to the applicant (and backed up in writing) by the Spring Harvest Event Safeguarding Advisor. Spring Harvest will retain a record of any decision made for future reference in accordance with the record retention policy.

Those who have been or remain on the Sex Offenders Register, or persons considered a potential risk to others will not be permitted on the Butlin's resort. If a Sex offender is identified at the event, then the Event Safeguarding Advisor should be notified immediately.

Section 4 - Responding to allegations of abuse

Under no circumstances should any worker or volunteer carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse, instead:

- listen – and keep on listening
- don't question
- avoid passing judgement
- never promise confidentiality
- explain what you intend to do
- take action immediately
- contact the Event Safeguarding Advisor
- write down the content of your conversation, including times/dates
- sign, date and keep safely

Report concerns as soon as possible to either the:

Event Safeguarding Advisor: Stella Ellwood
or Deputy Safeguarding Advisor: Sarah Driscoll

Email: safeguarding@essentialchristian.org
Phone: 01825 705220 or 01825 705221

The Event Safeguarding Advisor and Deputy are nominated to act on behalf of Spring Harvest to handle disclosures, allegations or suspicions of neglect or abuse, and onward referral to statutory authorities.

The role of the Event Safeguarding Advisor is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate. Spring Harvest will support the Event Safeguarding Advisors in their role and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need-to-know basis.

In the absence of the Event Safeguarding Advisor or Deputy or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Event Safeguarding Advisor or Deputy, the report should be made to:

Minehead

Event Coordinator: Steve May-Miller
Email: steve.may-miller@essentialchristian.org
Tel: 01825 705220 or 01825 705221

Skegness

Event Coordinator: Joe Bellett
Email: joe.bellett@essentialchristian.org
Tel: 01825 705220 or 01825 705221

If the suspicions implicate both the Event Safeguarding Advisor and the Event Coordinator, then the report should be made in the first instance to:

Thirtyone:eight Helpline - Tel: 0303 003 1111
Alternatively contact Social Services or the police.

Section 4 – Responding to allegations of abuse

continued

The Event Safeguarding Advisor may need to inform others about the situation, depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern. Those notified may include:

- **The Event Coordinator** with overall responsibility for the running of the event at either Skegness or Minehead
- **The Group Chief Executive and Chair of the Essential Christian Board** responsible for safeguarding who may need to liaise with the insurance company or the charity commission to report a serious incident.
- **Designated officer or LADO** (Local Authority Designated Officer) if the allegation concerns a worker or volunteer working with someone under 18.

Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.

It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:eight, although the Leadership hope that those involved or attending events will use the reporting procedure above. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Event Safeguarding Advisor has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Event Safeguarding Advisor as to the appropriate action taken, they are free to contact an outside agency directly. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrates its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:

Allegations of physical injury, neglect or emotional abuse.

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Event Safeguarding Advisor will:

- Contact Children's Social Services (or Thirtyone:eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having first contacted Children's Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g., poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Services direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by Thirtyone:eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

Section 4 – Responding to allegations of abuse

continued

Allegations of sexual abuse

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Event Safeguarding Advisor/Deputy will:

- Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or the Police direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by Thirtyone:eight if for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Services/Police. Thirtyone:eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

Concern that an adult is in need of protection:

Suspicious or allegations of abuse or harm including physical, sexual, organisational, financial, discriminatory, neglect, self-neglect, forced marriage, modern slavery, domestic abuse.

If there is concern about any of the above the Event Safeguarding Advisor will:

- Contact the Adult Social Care Team who have responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively Thirtyone:eight can be contacted for advice.
- If the adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.

If there is a concern regarding perceived abuse arising from the ministry of the Spring Harvest event, the Event Safeguarding Advisor will:

- Identify support services for the victim i.e. counselling or other pastoral support
- Contact Thirtyone:eight and in discussion with them will consider appropriate action with regards to the scale of the concern.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with children/young people

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Event Safeguarding Advisor, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will:

- Liaise with Children's Social Services in regards to the suspension of the worker
- Make a referral to a designated officer formerly called a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) whose function is to handle all allegations against adults who work with children and young people whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- Make a referral to Disclosure and Barring Service for consideration of the person being placed on the barred list for working with children or adults with additional care and support needs. This decision should be informed by the LADO if they are involved.

Section 4 – Responding to allegations of abuse

continued

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with adults with care and support needs

The Event Safeguarding Advisor will:

- Liaise with Adult Social Services in regards the suspension of the worker
- Make a referral to the DBS following the advice of Adult Social Services

The Care Act places the duty upon Adult Services to investigate situations of harm to adults with care and support needs. This may result in a range of options including action against the person or organisation causing the harm, increasing the support for the carers or no further action if the 'victim' chooses for no further action and they have the capacity to communicate their decision. However, this is a decision for Adult Services to decide, not Spring Harvest.

Section 5 Pastoral Care

Supporting those affected by abuse

The Leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, to support all those who have been affected by abuse. The Leadership will also ensure that appropriate pastoral care is put in place for anyone who has been involved in a safeguarding matter whilst at the event, either as a guest, a member of the Spring Harvest volunteer team or a staff member for Essential Christian.


Our Pastoral Team will offer prayer support to any guest, team member or Essential Christian staff member whilst at the event and help provide signposting to external agencies who can offer ongoing support.

The Head of Human Resources and Group Chief Executive Officer have responsibility for the pastoral care of the Essential Christian staff team and in particular, will ensure that the Event Safeguarding Advisors are supported in their roles and offered appropriate prayer and pastoral care in the course of their duties.

Adoption of the policy

This policy was agreed by the leadership and will be reviewed annually on:

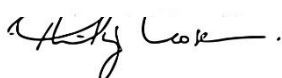
Signed by:



Position:

Group Chief Executive Officer

Signed by:



Position:

Chair, Essential Christian Board