

# **Battle Baptist Church**

## *A policy statement on Vulnerable Adults*

We believe that God created people in His image; each is loved and accepted by God. That all humankind is equal in the sight of God and each other. Individuals are unique and have gifts to contribute to society. As Christians we are charged to love and care for each other. This is particularly true where the most vulnerable members of our community are concerned. We believe that being part of the Christian family of the Church places responsibilities on all members, both institutional and individual, to ensure that the environment for all is safe. This includes safety for all those who are vulnerable and all who wish to share in the life of the church and who are offered support and pastoral care by the church, both formal and informal. The churches (in the Churches Forum for Safeguarding) have adopted the following definition of a vulnerable person as being one who may be at risk and in need as a result of:

- sensory or physical disability or impairment
- a learning disability
- a physical illness
- a mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including dementia or an addiction to alcohol or drugs.
- a reduction in physical, mental, or emotional capacity. Or, who has for any reason become unable to protect him or herself from significant harm or exploitation.

### **PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

This statement has been adopted at every Battle Baptist Church AGM held since 2007.

1. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
2. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
3. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with vulnerable adults.
4. The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
5. The church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain published in Safe to Belong.
6. Each person who works with vulnerable adults will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.