Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Policy for Healing Ministry

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1. Introduction

Healing Ministry within the Catholic Church is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for all individuals, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This ministry recognises safeguarding as an integral part of its pastoral and spiritual responsibility, rooted in the Gospel call to care for the most vulnerable.

This policy is guided by the standards of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and aligns with national legislation and Church safeguarding procedures.

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2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- **Protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults who participate in Healing Ministry.**
- **Provide clear guidance for clergy, staff, and volunteers on safeguarding responsibilities.**
- **Ensure a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all involved.**
- **Promote best practice in responding to safeguarding concerns.**

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3. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals involved in Littleway Healing Ministries, including clergy, volunteers, and any personnel acting on behalf of Littleway Healing Ministries.

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4. Principles

Littleway Healing Ministries will:

- **Uphold the dignity and worth of every person.**
- **Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.**
- **Listen to and respect those who raise concerns.**
- **Work transparently and cooperatively with statutory authorities.**
- **Respond promptly and appropriately to all safeguarding concerns.**

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5. Safer Recruitment

All those involved in Littleway Healing Ministries will:

- **Be safely recruited in line with diocesan procedures.**
- **Complete appropriate safeguarding checks (e.g. DBS where required).**
- **Receive a clear role description and code of conduct.**

6. Training and Awareness

All thos involved in Littleway Healing Ministries will:

- **Undertake mandatory safeguarding training as required by their diocese.**
- **Participate in ongoing safeguarding updates.**
- **Be aware of signs of abuse and how to respond appropriately.**

7. Safe Practice in Healing Ministry

Littleway Healing Ministries will ensure that:

- **Ministry is conducted in appropriate settings, avoiding situations where individuals are alone without accountability.**
- **Physical contact is appropriate, respectful, and always with consent.**
- **Prayer ministry is conducted in a way that respects personal boundaries and dignity.**
- **At least two adults are present where possible, especially when working with vulnerable individuals.**

8. Responding to Concerns

If a safeguarding concern arises:

- **It must be reported immediately to the Littleway Healing Ministries Designated Safeguaring Coordinator, the relevant Diocesan Safeguarding Office, and/or Statutory Agencies.**
- **No one should investigate concerns themselves.**
- **All concerns, allegations, or disclosures must be taken seriously and recorded accurately.**
- **Confidentiality will be maintained appropriately, with information shared only on a need-to-know basis.**

9. Support for Victims and Survivors

Littleway Healing Ministries is committed to:

- **Listening to and believing those who disclose abuse.**
- **Offering pastoral support and signposting to professional services.**
- **Treating all individuals with compassion, dignity, and respect.**

10. Accountability

All members of Littleway Healing Ministries are responsible for safeguarding. Failure to comply with this policy may result in removal from ministry and referral to appropriate authorities.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly in line with national guidance and updates from the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency.

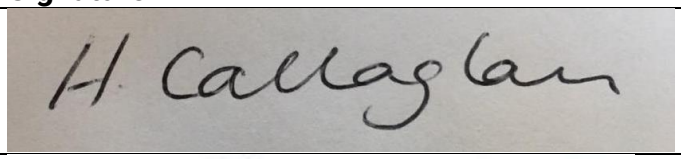
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