

# Child Protection Policy

## Carryduff Presbyterian Church

Creating a safe environment for children, young people, leaders and staff.

### Policy Statement

This policy statement is aimed at creating a safe environment where children and young people may enjoy social contact, personal and spiritual development and where they and the leaders and helpers working with them will be safe.

### Adoption of Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) Child Protection Guidelines

The Kirk Session of **Carryduff Presbyterian Church** has adopted The Presbyterian Church in Ireland's child protection guidelines, Taking Care, approved by the General Assembly and revised 2011. All organisations must adhere to these guidelines, as agreed by the General Assembly in 2008. The Kirk Session will review the policy every three years and keep Taking Care on the agenda of the Kirk Session meetings.

#### 1. Leadership

The Kirk Session believes that the recruitment and appointment process outlined in the Taking Care guidelines greatly assist the assessment of a person's suitability to work with children and young people. As a result of implementing such procedures, leaders and helpers within this congregation will be more assured of their position and of the confidence placed in them by the Kirk Session.

The following procedures must be followed for the appointment of leaders who are 18 years and over.

- i) All leaders will be required to complete an application form for leaders.
- ii) The application form includes the vetting process according to legislation and good practice.
- iii) The Kirk Session will appoint up to two interviewers to meet informally with the applicant. At the interview the child protection policy will be provided and explained. "We Care 4 U Too" will also be provided.
- iv) Applicants will be required to provide two references by persons who are not relatives.
- v) A letter of approval will be sent to the Designated Person from the Taking Care Office.

#### 2. Training

Leaders and helpers who work with children and young people should attend Taking Care training on a regular basis as church policy or legislation demands and at least every 3 years. Even those who have a good knowledge of child protection issues in another field should attend as Taking Care Training is the only training available that is specifically dealing with church activities within a church environment.

#### 3. Reporting of Concerns

The leaders in each of our organisations will be fully conversant with the reporting procedure where there is concern about the welfare of a child, as outlined in the Taking Care Guidelines. Leaders must not hesitate to report a concern about a child if they are at any time worried about their welfare.

#### 4. The Designated Person

The Kirk Session has appointed the following Designated Persons:- Mrs Janet Avery, assisted by Mrs Heather Montgomery. The Designated Persons, will provide consultation, advice and support to organisations and to the Kirk Session on matters concerning the welfare of children and young people. The Kirk Session will keep organisational leaders updated with the name(s) of the Designated Person(s). Any matter brought to the attention of the Designated Person will be treated in strict confidence. Information will be divulged only where there is a legitimate need to know.



