Children have the right to be protected from harm. It is the commitment of the Dunblane-Likhubula Partnership (to be referred to *The Partnership*) to protect all children, both in Scotland and Malawi. It is our commitment to ensure we have procedures in place to keep children safe and respond to child protection concerns. We will make sure that all children and young people have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

 *The Partnership* will meet our commitment to keeping children safe by:

* by listening to children and respecting them
* by adhering to detailed safeguarding and child protection procedures of the associated churches of Dunblane.
* by making sure all volunteers understand and follow the safeguarding and child protection procedures.
* This policy applies to all children and young people associated with *The Partnership* and adults who volunteer within it.

**Background**

*The Partnership* began life in Dunblane Cathedral, but is now a link between the whole community of Dunblane and Likhubula involving schools, churches and the community at large. The partnership is also involved and interested in projects involving sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation and education**.** *The Partnership* committee is made up of volunteers from the Dunblane Community. Most volunteers are adults but on occasion young adults also volunteer within the committee.

**Legislative Context**

The national approach to improving outcomes for children and young people in Scotland is Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) (Scottish Government, 2015). The key guidance for anyone working with children in Scotland is the National guidance for child protection in Scotland (Scottish Government, 2014). In Scotland, a child legally becomes an adult when they turn 16, but statutory guidance which supports the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 includes all children and young people up to the age of 18. Where concerns are raised about a 16 or 17 year old, agencies may need to refer to the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, depending on the situation of the young person at risk. Section 21 of the National guidance for child protection in Scotland explains how professionals should act to protect young people from harm in different circumstances (Scottish Government, 2014).

**Potential Risks**

* There are limited potential risks to children and young people within *The Partnership*. The committee meets once every six weeks in a room within Dunblane Cathedral. At no time are young people left alone with an adult, there are always other adults within the room. There is limited or no contact with children except fundraising activities. During these events, parental supervision is required.
* Volunteers to the committee are invited to join or chose to join themselves. Trustees are elected through nomination and voting by other members of the committee. As there is no direct working with children or young people in Scotland, the risk is minimal. Therefore, it is not a requirement of volunteers to members of the PVG scheme.
* It is unlikely that *The Partnership* or its membership will experience online abuse. If this should occur, advice from the Safeguarding Coordinator of Dunblane Cathedral and/or the Police will be sought. Any photographs or images of children taken are stored and shared appropriately. There are no names or addresses linked to the photographs to prevent inappropriate use. There are no child protection records to store.
* If a member of the committee is concerned about the welfare of a child or young person who attends one of their events, the Safeguarding Coordinator of Dunblane Cathedral/ St Blane’s Church or Police would be contacted immediately.
* If concerns or allegations of harm should be raised against *The Partnership* or members of its committee, the Safeguarding Coordinator of Dunblane Cathedral/ St Blane’s Church and/or Police would be contacted immediately. Contact with the NSPCC can also be made through the following:

help@nspcc.org.uk

**0808 800 5000**

This overarching policy statement links up with the more detailed child protection procedures of Dunblane Cathedral and St. Blane’s Church.

<https://www.dunblanecathedral.org.uk/page/181/safeguarding-data-protection-policies>

https://www.dunblanestblanes.org/

**Contact details**

Person responsible for safeguarding and child protection:

Fiona Anderson

38 Ramsay Drive, Dunblane

01786 822 955

**Signature:** Fiona Anderson 28.08.2019