

Statement of Safeguarding Principles



Wells Cathedral, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will promote the safeguarding of children, young people and adults who may be at risk of harm, neglect or abuse.

We work with the Diocesan Safeguarding team, statutory bodies and other agencies to foster and deliver best practice within our community.

The Chapter adopts the House of Bishops' National Safeguarding Policies and Practice, details of which are available on the Church of England website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>

We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children and adults
- The establishment of a safe, caring community which provides an environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance regarding the dangers of abuse, and where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and find support
- The promotion of best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse

To this end

- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration/membership of the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused
- We will seek to protect survivors of sexual abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our church community known to have committed offences against a child, young person or adult

In all principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Approved by the Chapter of Wells Cathedral in July 2018.

To be reviewed in three years' time in July 2021.

Signed: Date:

Name: Mrs Jackie Croft, Chapter Clerk and Cathedral Administrator

The Chapter member with oversight of Safeguarding is The Revd Canon Nicholas Jepson-Biddle.