



The following statement was agreed at the Chapter meeting held on 12 September 2023:

As members of the Cathedral Chapter, we commit our Cathedral Community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable and adults at risk of harm. We recognise that our work with children, young people and adults at risk of harm is the responsibility of the whole Cathedral community and, as well as being fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures, we will also endeavour to act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Services and other agencies to safeguard children and adults at risk of harm, and assist in bringing to justice anyone who has committed an offence against them. We also recognise that Safeguarding needs to be underpinned by a culture which challenges deference and the abuse of power to create environments where victims of abuse are heard, where they not only survive but flourish.

- We will ensure that all necessary checks are made to promote the safe selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers, paid workers and volunteers with children, young people and adults at risk of harm, and provide the necessary supervision, support and training to them, in order that they can undertake their roles effectively.
- We will respond without delay to every concern raised that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or be at risk of harm, or about the behaviour of an adult or child.
- We will co-operate with the Diocese and appropriate statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the Cathedral Community.
- We will keep those with a lived experience of abuse at the heart of all we do and enable a clear and consistent pathway of support.
- We will ensure that pastoral care is made available to children and vulnerable adults and their families and to any member of our Cathedral Community against whom an allegation is made.
- We will ensure, in partnership with the Diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our Cathedral Community known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.
- We are committed to reviewing our policy annually, and, as part of this, to check that our Cathedral Safeguarding procedures are up-to-date and relevant.

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