

### Safeguarding Policy

#### 1. Child Protection

1.1 The Chapter is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society and in its own community.

1.2 It fully accepts and endorses the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. It will implement the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Children Policy and work within the procedures laid down by the Diocese of Worcester ([www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)).

1.3 In its work with children and young people under the age of 18, the Cathedral will follow good practice, whereby there will always be at least two adults present, who have been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Services. This includes both activities on the Cathedral site and on authorised tours and visits.

1.4 It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people.

1.5 It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person who may have been harmed or is in danger or at risk from the behaviour of an adult.

1.6 It will fully cooperate with the appropriate statutory bodies in any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the Cathedral Community. It will immediately inform the statutory agency of any suspected criminal offences or concerns that it is made aware of in respect of its contact with children.

1.7 It will carefully select and train ordained ministers, paid workers and volunteers who work with children, using the Disclosure and Barring Services to check the background of each person as outlined in the diocesan procedures.

1.8 It will offer informed pastoral care to any child or young person who has suffered abuse and provide them with details of local and national support agencies.

1.9 It will supervise and support any member of the Cathedral community known to have offended against a child, offering pastoral ministry as appropriate within any agreement reached with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

## **2. Adult Safeguarding**

2.1 The Chapter is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Everyone, whether they see themselves as vulnerable or not, will receive respectful pastoral ministry.

2.2 It will carefully select and train ordained ministers, paid workers and volunteers involved in any pastoral ministry, using the Disclosure and Barring Services when legal or appropriate to check the background of each person as outlined in the diocesan procedures. Those involved in pastoral ministry will receive training and continuing support.

2.3 Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay. Whether or not the matter involves the Cathedral, the Chapter will cooperate with the police and local authority in any investigation.

2.4 Sensitive and informed pastoral care will be offered to anyone who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired and also help to find appropriate specialist care either from the church or secular agencies.

2.5 Congregations may include people who have offered in a way that means they are a continuing risk to vulnerable people. The risks will be managed sensitively with the protection of adults and children in mind within any agreement reached with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

If anyone has concerns about safeguarding in general or a specific situation they should contact one of the following people:

### **The nominated Child Protection Representative is:**

<b>Mr Les West</b>
<b>Cathedral Steward</b>
<b>01905 732907</b>

### **The Acting Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese of Worcester is:**

<b>Mr Chris Lees</b>
<b>01886 889216</b>

### **Out of hours contact details**

Social Care Worcestershire: 0845 607 2000

West Mercia Police: 0300 333 3000

**Date of next review: September 2015**