



# **Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults: Policy**

**Peterborough Cathedral  
February 2026**

## INTRODUCTION

The care and protection of children, young people<sup>1</sup> and vulnerable adults/ adults at risk<sup>2</sup> involved in Cathedral activities is the responsibility of the whole Cathedral. Everyone who participates in the life of the Cathedral has a role to play in promoting a Safer Cathedral for all.

Under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, all authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs must have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops (this will include both policy and practice guidance). A duty to have 'due regard' to guidance means that the person under the duty is not free to disregard it but is required to follow it unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so. ('Cogent' for this purpose means clear, logical and convincing.) Failure by clergy to comply with the duty imposed by the 2016 Measure may result in disciplinary action. *(Promoting a Safer Church - safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults 2017)*

The Cathedral Chapter takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults/adults at risk of harm. The Cathedral Chapter will embed the Church of England Policy which is based on 5 foundations and 6 overarching policy commitments

**The Cathedral Safeguarding Officers, can be contacted at:**

- [safeguarding@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk)
- 07437 872592

**Canon Tim Alban Jones (Chapter Appointee), can be contacted at:**

- [tim.albanjones@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:tim.albanjones@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk)

**For advice on all safeguarding issues including allegations or suspicions of abuse contact:**

- The Diocesan Safeguarding Team 01733 887000 then either 39, 40 or 41
- [safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

**If you believe a child, young person or adult at risk of harm to be in immediate danger, call 999**

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<sup>1</sup> A child or young person is anyone under the age of eighteen years

<sup>2</sup> In their policies and procedures our statutory partners have now moved away from the terminology of 'vulnerable adults' towards 'adults at risk of harm', usually shortened to 'adults at risk'

## **PROMOTING A SAFER CATHEDRAL**

Safeguarding means the action that we take to promote a safer culture. This means we will: promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused.

We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, offer and support them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

Our Cathedral will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all and to practice fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults. To respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs to help keep them safe from harm.

We are guided by the following 5 foundations:

1. Gospel – being faithful to our call to share the gospel compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.
2. Human Rights and the Law – safeguarding work is undertaken within a legislative framework supported by government guidance which sets out a range of safeguarding duties, responsibilities and best practice.
3. Core Principle – welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount.
4. Good Safeguarding Practice – includes leadership commitment; safeguarding policy; clear lines of accountability; clear reporting procedures and record keeping and effective information sharing/ working with partner agencies.
5. Learning from the Past – statutory reports and independent reviews into abuse that have involved the Church of England highlight past errors and significant lessons learnt to improve safeguarding.

Based on the 5 foundations outlined above the Cathedral Chapter commits to the following 6 overarching policy commitments:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture by training, support, communication, learning, governance and quality assurance processes.
2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Cathedral.
3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
4. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
6. Responding to those who may pose a risk to others.

### **The Cathedral will**

Create a safe and caring place for all.

- Have a named Cathedral Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to work with Chapter to implement policy and procedures.

- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the cathedral.
- Display in the cathedral and on the cathedral website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the cathedral community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually

Each person who works, volunteers and worships within this community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this cathedral.

The Cathedral policy is aligned to The Church of England's policy and practices.

These links provide additional information and support:

- <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/code-of-safer-working-practice-02.07.2021.pdf>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual>