**Blackburn Cathedral**

**Safeguarding policy summary**

**Blackburn Cathedral recognises that the safeguarding of children, young people and adults is the responsibility of everyone.**

**If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.**

**You** **can contact any of the following to raise a concern:**

Name: Denise Sanderson

Role: Under 18s Co-ordinator

Tel: 07938 793844 or 01772 335903 (evenings)

E-mail: SafeguardingU18@blackburncathedral.co.uk

Name: Jenny Price

Role: Cathedral Safeguarding Adviser

Tel: 07800 740001

E-mail: SafeguardingAdviser@blackburncathedral.co.uk

Name: Sharon Hassall

Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Tel: 07711 485170

E-mail: sharon.hassall@blackburn.anglican.org

Name: Stewart Hopkinson

Role: Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator

Tel: 07515 652776

E-mail: SafeguardingAdult@blackburncathedral.co.uk

Local Authority Safeguarding:

Child Safeguarding: 01254 666400

Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding: 01254 585949

Emergency Duty Team (after 5pm): 01254 587547

Police: 01254 51212

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER, PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999**

Blackburn Cathedral, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the safeguarding of the vulnerable both in society as a whole, and in our own community. We will foster and encourage best practice within our community by setting high standards for working with children, young people and adults. We will also work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of all members of its community. *See supplementary material p8.*

Our safeguarding policy follows the guidance published by the House of Bishops, particularly the document *Promoting a Safer Church*. <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>

**The core principles we follow are:**

• The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount;

• Integrity, respect and listening to all;

• Transparency and openness;

• Accountability;

• Collaboration with key statutory authorities and other partners;

• Use of professional safeguarding advice and support both inside and outside the Church;

• A commitment to the prevention of abuse;

• The active management of risk;

• Promoting a culture of informed vigilance;

• Regular evaluation to ensure best practice.

**Accordingly, we have six policy commitments:**

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture *See supplementary material pp4-10.*

Key individuals, named above, have particular roles in ensuring that the Cathedral is a place where all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from harm, creating a safe non-discriminatory environment by being aware of situations which can create vulnerability. However, this can only be achieved if every person associated with Blackburn Cathedral is equally committed to our Christian belief that we must value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore protect them from harm.

1. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults *See supplementary material pp14-15, 38 and appendices.*

The Cathedral will select and vet all those, both paid staff and volunteers, who have any responsibility related to children, young people and adults within the Cathedral, in accordance with the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and practice guidance. This will include references, confidential disclosures of information relevant to safeguarding, and may also include a DBS check. We will train and equip paid staff and volunteers to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support children, young people and adults and to recognise and respond to abuse.

1. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation *See supplementary material pp33-35.*

Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or non-current abuse to the notice of the Church will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner. This will be done irrespective of the status of the person. The Cathedral will cooperate with the statutory authorities where appropriate.

1. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons *See supplementary material pp33-35.*

We will endeavour to offer care and support to all those that have been abused, regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred. Those who have suffered abuse within the Church will receive a compassionate response, be listened to and be taken seriously. We will respond to any disclosure of abuse in accordance with House of Bishops policy and practice guidance. This will be done in collaboration with the relevant statutory agencies in accordance with criminal, civil and ecclesiastical law. They will be offered appropriate pastoral care, counselling and support - according to the agreed need.

1. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons *See supplementary material p14.*

The Church, based on the message of the gospel, opens its doors to all. We will therefore endeavour to offer pastoral care and support to any member of the church community whom may present a known risk. We will ensure that any risk has been assessed and is managed in a safeguarding agreement in accordance with House of Bishops policy and practice guidance.

1. Responding to those that may pose a present risk. *See supplementary material p20.*

In exercising our responsibilities to suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of abuse, we will endeavour to respect the rights under criminal, civil and ecclesiastical law of any person accused, including Church Officers and clergy. A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory and Church inquiry processes. As the process progresses, additional assessment, therapy and/or support services may be offered to anyone involved. The Church will take responsibility for ensuring that steps are taken to protect others when any Church Officer is considered a risk to children, young people or adults. This will be done by working to mitigate any identified risks according to a safeguarding agreement.