

THE SOCIETY OF ALL SAINTS SISTERS OF THE POOR

All Saints, 15A Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RW

SAFEGUARDING POLICY - January 2021

The Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor (Charity Registration Number 228383) is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children and adults with whom we work, who share our grounds and our worship. This applies to Sisters, Trustees of the Society, employees and volunteers.

We support, and are in full agreement with, the Safeguarding Policy of the Church of England in that every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. This implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to establishing a safe, caring community which provides a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support & 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 Society, in line with the principles of safer recruitment.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, relating to any adult, child or young person that 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, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation.
- We will seek to protect survivors of 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 respect and responsibility, where they are trusted by others.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult.

In respect of the above aims, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice in the latest publication of 'Practice Guidance: Safeguarding in Religious Communities', the Church of England's 'Promoting a Safer Church' and the Diocese of Oxford's 'Dignity and Respect in Ministry and at Work'.

Sisters may work with children and vulnerable adults through ministry and it is recognised that they may also be vulnerable at times. Sisters should expect to be treated with dignity & respect, and they should treat others in the same way.

Procedures

All Sisters, Trustees, employees and volunteers will have been checked through the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) and instructed on the Society's policy of Safeguarding.

The Community Leader, and the DSP (Designated Safeguarding Person) appointed by her, have particular responsibility for Safeguarding and any allegation, suspicion or admission of abuse should be reported promptly to the DSP or, in his/her absence, the Community Leader.

In responding to a person alleging abuse, the child or adult must be allowed to speak without interruption but he/she should be advised that, although we will offer support, other people must be informed and consulted.

Under no circumstances should anyone becoming aware of any allegation, suspicion or admission of abuse carry out his/her own investigation and, other than reporting the matter to the DSP/Community Leader, should take no further action him/herself.

It is imperative that those dealing with an allegation maintain an open mind and that the investigation is thorough and not subject to delay.

Written records should be kept all stages in the process, by the person initiating the process as well as by the DSP/Community Leader, recording what has been said and what has been done in responding to a complaint. Records should be kept in a safe place.

Any allegation, suspicion or admission of abuse must then be reported by the DSP/Community Leader to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, who will advise if the matter should be reported to the Police and/or Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board or Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, as appropriate.

If an allegation of abuse is made against a member of our community or someone living/and or working with us, the person against whom the allegation has been made will be withdrawn from all contact with the adult or child concerned, or any other adult or child, and the matter will be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor as outlined above.

Our Society's Designated Safeguarding Officer is:

Barry Newsome 01865 255792 (Work) 07766704952 (emergency)
Email: barry@socallss.co.uk

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is:

Richard Woodley 01865 208290 Mobile: 07391868478
Email: richard.woodley@oxford.anglican.org

This Safeguarding Policy has been adopted by The Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor. It will be reviewed annually.

Signed:



Date: 23/11/21

Name (Print):

On behalf of the Trustees

A. ALLEN

*A vulnerable adult is a person age 18 or over and who by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness is, or may be, unable to take care of him/herself, or to protect him/herself from significant harm or exploitation.

This can include groups such as the frail and elderly, those with a mental or personality disorder, physical illness, misuse of substances, and emotional or spiritual vulnerability.