

SLG CHARITABLE TRUST LIMITED (the Charity) Registered charity number 261722

and The Community of the Sisters of the Love of God

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS AT RISK POLICY

May 2024

SAFEGUARDING POLICY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England's safeguarding statement offers six overarching policy commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and adults at risk within the Church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims / survivors of abuse (i.e., children, young people or adults at risk) and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those who may pose a present risk to others.

SLG CHARITABLE TRUST LTD AND THE COMMUNITY OF THE SISTERS OF THE LOVE OF GOD'S STATEMENT OF SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults at risk
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults at risk
- The welfare of the child, young person and adult at risk 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 Community and 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

To this end:

- o We will promote a safer environment and culture demonstrated by the fact that the Trustees and members of the Community believe that no-one should ever experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all people and to keep them safe. We are committed to live, work and practise our faith in a way that protects them.
- o We will treat all those who live or work in our Community with care and respect.

- o We will make all those who live and work in our Community aware of our Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- o We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Community, staff or volunteers, in line with the principles of Safer Recruitment.
- o We will provide appropriate Safeguarding training to all Trustees, members of the Community, staff and volunteers.
- o We will respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- o Those who raise safeguarding concerns will be treated with understanding and respect, as will the person(s), against whom the concern or allegation is made.
- o We will take care to ensure that the Community, staff and volunteers are aware of their roles and responsibilities in managing safeguarding procedures, including referral to the appropriate and / or statutory authorities.
- o We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognizes the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and / or isolation.
- o We will seek to protect children, young people or adults at risk and other affected persons from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- o We will seek to offer pastoral care and support for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- o We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, to those that may pose a present risk to others.
- o This policy and Safeguarding procedures documents shall be reviewed annually in the Chapter and by the Designated Safeguarding Person and the Board of Trustees.
- o This policy and Safeguarding procedures documents is available on request from the Designated Safeguarding Person and / or online at [www.slg.org.uk/safeguarding-policy].

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognized good practice. The Church of England has approved the following safeguarding policies:

- *Promoting a Safe Church* (safeguarding policy for adults, 2006);
- *Responding to Domestic Abuse* (guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility, 2006);
- *Protecting All God's Children* (safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th Edition 2010);
- *Responding Well to those who have been sexually abused*, 2011;
- *Safeguarding Guidelines relating to Safer Recruitment*, 2015;
- *Promoting a Safer Church: a policy for safeguarding children and adults*, 2017.

The adoption of these policies is demonstrated by the appointment of a Designated Safeguarding Person, who is advised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and being engaged in safeguarding training on a regular basis.

Our Religious Community & Staff Designated Safeguarding Person is Sister Christine SLG__

Contact details: Convent of the Incarnation, Parker Street, Oxford, OX4 1TB_____

Email: safeguarding@slg.org.uk_____

Phone: 01865 634 100 _____

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is Louise Whitehead _____

Contact details: safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org _____

Phone: [07391 868478](tel:07391868478) / [01865 208 295](tel:01865208295)

Oxford and Dorchester Casework Advisor is Erica Hegg

Contact details: safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org

Phone: [07341 866 832](tel:07341866832)

- Formal complaint policy: see *A Handbook of Religious Life*, 6th Edition, 2021, p. 60; see <https://arlyb.org.uk/council-for-religious-communities/> The Advisory Council for Religious Communities [in the Church of England], Anglican Religious Life Yearbook
- The Church of England's bullying and harassment policy: see *Dignity at Work*, 2008
- Whistleblowing: see *Protecting All God's Children*, page 38. For government guidance on whistleblowing: see <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing/overview>
- Disciplinary policy: see link to the *Church of England's disciplinary policy* <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/clergy-discipline> and the *SLG Charitable Trust Ltd Employee Handbook*, available on application.

This safeguarding policy was adopted by the Board of Trustees of SLG Charitable Trust Ltd and the Chapter of the Community of the Sisters of the Love of God. It will next be reviewed at the Annual General Chapter meeting in 2025.

Signed by the Reverend Mother on behalf of the Board of Trustees of SLG Charitable Trust Ltd and the Chapter of the Community of the Sisters of the Love of God

Name (Print) : Clare-Louise Marriott _____

Date : 21 May 2024 _____

FINDING SUPPORT

We understand that reporting abuse may be very difficult and distressing to you and it may add to your hurt by our not being able to immediately assist you. Therefore, here are the contact details of other agencies that are available to assist either on a 24-hour basis or through specialist helplines and services:

- The Police: 999
- Adult or Children's Social & Health Care Services: 0345 050 7666 Out of hours emergency number: 0800 833408 (freephone)
- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- Child-line: 0800 1111 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything.
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.
- Samaritans Helpline: 116 123 (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.
- Action on Elder Abuse/Hourglass Helpline: 080 8808 8141 (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm)

Thirtyone.eight: 0303 003 1111. For urgent safeguarding enquiries outside of operational hours.

Oxford Diocese:

For urgent and confidential safeguarding matters:

Louise Whitehead, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org
[07391 868478](tel:07391868478) / [01865 208 295](tel:01865208295)

Tsungai Muchegwa: Safeguarding Casework Officer for Buckingham
tsungai.muchegwa@oxford.anglican.org; [01865 208 295](tel:01865208295)

Erica Hegg, Safeguarding Casework Officer for Oxford & Dorchester,
erica.hegg@oxford.anglican.org or 07341 866832

Charlotte Wilmshurst, Safeguarding Casework Officer for Berkshire: 07443 700159

All phone or email referrals to the safeguarding team must be followed up by completing the Safeguarding referral form.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=SAj8iTpC10GQoXhOkW-8xA3QNioNRKtEkNUeU5HzGpIUMTdYM0I4SFNDTOJOODVYMERZVkhWR0YwMS4u>

If there are any problems with the online form, a copy can be downloaded (for Microsoft Word or as a PDP) and returned to: safeguardingreferrals@xford.anglican.org

For general safeguarding enquiries: safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org

National Safeguarding Team: General safeguarding enquiries: safeguarding@churchofengland.org