

RIVER CHURCH IPSWICH

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with the House of Bishops' Policy Statements 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017) (available here and adopted as the official Safeguarding Policy of River Church) and 'Protecting All God's Children' (2010) and the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Diocese' (2018) River Church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse 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 that may pose a present risk to others.

The church will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to work with the Church Leaders and Trustees 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 parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish 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 church 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 within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Further guidance can be found in the National Church's Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance.

The National Church's Parish Safeguarding Handbook provides further advice on responding to concerns.

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

River Church has appointed Lauren Pipe as our Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO), along with Matt Key and Amy Key, who, as Church Leaders, hold an ex officio responsibility for safeguarding. Our Safeguarding Officer is the first person to speak to if you have any concerns around the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult.

Key contact details

Lauren Pipe (**Church Safeguarding Officer**)

safeguarding@riverchurchipswich.org

Ref: FAO Safeguarding (Safeguarding Officer)

Matt Key (**Church Leader**)

safeguarding@riverchurchipswich.org

Ref: FAO Safeguarding (Church Leader)

If you would prefer to speak with someone outside the church:

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)

Karen Galloway

karen.galloway@cofesufolk.org

07785 621319

Alternative contact details

ACTION ON ELDER ABUSE: 080 8808 8141

ANGLIA CARE TRUST: 0800 977 5690

CHILDLINE: 0800 1111

FAMILY LIVES: 0808 800 2222

LIGHTHOUSE/REFUGE: 0808 2000 247

NAPAC: 0808 801 0331

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE: 0808 2000 247

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

SAMARITANS: 116 123SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE: 0300 1235058

STOP IT NOW: 0808 1000 900

SUFFOLK RAPE CRISIS: 0800 085 0520SURVIVORS IN TRANSITION: 07765 052282

WOMEN'S AID: helpline@womensaid.org.uk

Date adopted: 20th November 2023

Date for review: 20/11/26

Signed (Chair of Trustees): Amy Key

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Key', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a faint horizontal line.