

**OFFICIAL WARNING OF
THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

to

THE CHELMSFORD DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE: 249505 (“the Charity”)

dated the

9 January 2026

The Charity Commission for England and Wales (“the Commission”) issues the Official Warning under section 75A of the Charities Act 2011, on the following grounds:

s75(1)(b) – a breach of trust or duty or other misconduct and/ or mismanagement has been committed in connection with a charity.

Following a complaint being made to the charity about a potential safeguarding allegation, the trustees failed to consider or investigate the complaint and did not follow the Commission’s guidance on safeguarding and therefore failed in their safeguarding duties. This was a failure to act in the charity’s best interests and to take reasonable steps to protect from harm people who come into contact with the charity.

There were insufficient processes and procedures in place to ensure that the trustees have adequate oversight of safeguarding and protecting those who come into the charity, including through appropriate reporting and monitoring.

There was also a subsequent failure ongoing over a period of about 2 years to report the serious incident to the Commission relating to the allegation which was the subject of the above complaint.

Action that the Commission considers should be taken to rectify the breach of trust or duty, or other misconduct and/ or mismanagement.

The Charity is to:

- a. Ensure that there is an adequate understanding within the charity of the Commission's guidance relating to safeguarding and protecting people who come into contact with the charity.
- b. The trustees should ensure that where operational responsibility for safeguarding is delegated, suitable and robust policies and procedures in relation to monitoring and reporting are implemented, understood and followed.
- c. Ensure that safeguarding training is reinforced within the charity and is kept up to date.
- d. Review the Commission's guidance on reporting serious incidents and ensure that processes are put in place so that serious incidents are reported to the Commission promptly.
- e. Report to the Commission within 2 months of the official warning on the progress of the above actions and to detail how it intends to implement them going forward.

Failure to remedy the breach of trust or duty, and/ or misconduct and/ or mismanagement specified above may lead to further regulatory action being taken by the Commission.