

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER – COVID-19

Dear Colleagues

At a time when people are anxious and fearful and daily routines are entirely different, the Safeguarding Team would like to assure you that the work of keeping people safe remains paramount and you should contact the team as normal if you have any safeguarding concerns.

TRAINING

All face to face safeguarding training is cancelled in line with government advice. The usual arrangements mean that clergy and church officers are required to undertake various levels of training. Those in leadership positions are required to complete either the Leadership Module (C2) or the Senior Leadership Module (C4), which are face-to-face modules. People in roles, which require C0 or C1 training, will still be required to complete that training as usual using the online modules.

Where a member of clergy or church officer has not been able to undertake appropriate safeguarding training because of cancellations due to the virus this now constitutes a cogent reason why the House of Bishops guidance - to have due regard to the need for safeguarding training to be completed has not been followed. In other words, in the present crisis, it is acceptable for clergy to continue to minister, and church officers to undertake their roles. Records should be kept of everyone that this applies to, (o demonstrate the cogent reason) and they should attend the training as soon as it becomes available.

In the meantime, the Basic and Foundation courses are available online and we request that all clergy and church officers who are not able to access face-to-face training undertake this. <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/safe-training> this is not a lengthy process and it will give you an update and a reminder of good practice.

VOLUNTEERS HELPING DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

We are awaiting practice guidance about volunteers wishing to help whilst people are self – isolating. When this is available, we will let you know via the safeguarding website.

In the interim, we suggest that parishes follow the below guidelines for all volunteers-

1. Use volunteers that are known to you if possible and ensure all volunteers undertake the online safeguarding training.

2. Keep a record of all volunteers and ensure that they are safely recruited if practical in the present circumstances.
3. All volunteers to complete a self-declaration form.
4. Volunteers to work in twos and to ensure that one has a DBS certificate.
5. Do not enter homes. Leave shopping on the doorstep as per government guidelines.
6. Adhere to physical distancing as per government guidelines.
7. Keep all receipts of items purchased
8. Any safeguarding concerns to be brought to the attention of the vicar.

UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING TEAM (NST) regarding COVID-19.

Please click on the link below for the NST update

[https://www.leeds.anglican.org/sites/default/files/files/Update%20from%20the%20National%20Safeguarding%20Team%20regarding%20COVID-19%20FINAL%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.leeds.anglican.org/sites/default/files/files/Update%20from%20the%20National%20Safeguarding%20Team%20regarding%20COVID-19%20FINAL%20(002).pdf)

DBS CHECKS – THIRTY ONE EIGHT TEMPORARY GUIDANCE

Thirty one eight is continuing to monitor the situation with regard to the outbreak of the virus and, in partnership with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), they are reviewing their guidance and processes to keep you updated with the latest changes to our standard operating procedures and advice.

The Disclosure helpline remains open to answer any questions you may have but staff working remotely may take a little longer than usual to answer. You can continue to call them on 0303 003 1111 option one.

Checking ID documents:

As the public are being advised to work from home, this is causing difficulties in receiving paper documents, is delaying applications, and in some cases, preventing applications from being submitted. To ensure that the necessary DBS checks can still be carried out, the DBS standard and enhanced ID checking guidance will be changed for a temporary period. The change will enable:

ID documents to be viewed over video link and scanned images to be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted. The applicant will be required to present the original versions of these documents when they first attend their employment or volunteering role.

DBS checks continue to be processed through Gail O'Neill.

Contact Gail for further information: 0113 353 0204 / Gail.ONeill@leeds.anglican.org

PARISHES WITH SAFEGUARDING / WORSHIP AGREEMENTS

Where a Safeguarding Agreement / Worship Agreement is in place, can the incumbent please contact the DSA should they wish to discuss how the agreement will be managed during this time.

GENERAL SAFEGUARDING ENQUIRIES

Referrals for Safeguarding will need to be followed up as business as usual, albeit that this will be conducted through conference calls etc. rather than face-to-face meetings. We will also continue to progress casework, and receive referrals as appropriate. The virus must not affect the reporting of issues or the way in which we respond to referrals and queries, except that face-to-face meetings and travelling will not be possible.

REMEMBER

If a child or adult is at *immediate* risk of significant harm, in the first instance you should contact [your local social services team](#) or local police (call 999) Then inform your DSA.

Complaints and Whistleblowing

If you are not satisfied that a safeguarding issue has been dealt with appropriately and you are unable to resolve the matter with one of our safeguarding advisers then please contact Mrs Debbie Child, on d.child@leeds.anglican.org who will investigate your concerns.

The Diocese of Leeds Complaints Policy and Whistleblowing Policy can both be found on the Safeguarding section of the diocesan website.

YOUR DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISERS - (Please note that we are working from home but are still available via email and telephone.)



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