



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2019

Safeguarding is everyone's business

The Safeguarding Team would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING HANDBOOK

The Parish Handbook has been revised and is available online on the safeguarding page of the diocesan website. It aims to further strengthen the Church's approach to safeguarding by bringing into one place the safeguarding responsibilities for parishes as outlined in the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance.

It is designed to support the day-to-day work of all parishes in relation to safeguarding and those that have a key role to play with children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable. It offers a range of model templates and good practice reference material, which you will find in the final section of the handbook.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE: RESPONDING TO SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS OR ALLEGATIONS THAT RELATE TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS (NOV 2018)

Please note this document has just come out and will be available online on the safeguarding page of the diocesan website. This is to assist parishes along with the parish handbook and must be used when there are concerns about the welfare of young people and adults who are **not church officers. (E.g. congregation)**

The guidance provides the church with procedures for dealing with identifying potential or actual harm, how to respond to direct concerns, reporting procedures and what to expect from statutory services. **This guidance is underpinned by the Church of England's safeguarding policy statement Promoting a Safer Church 2017, Ecclesiastical Law and Government Guidance such as Working Together 2018 and the Care Act 2014. It replaces section 5 of Protecting All God's Children 2010, including annex 5 and Guidance Practice 2, and Appendix 3 of Promoting a Safe Church 2006. It replaces section 6 of Promoting All God's Children and Promoting a Safe Church.**

KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH OFFICE HOLDERS AND BODIES PRACTICE GUIDANCE

This guidance published in 2017 substantially updates and replaces the 'Responsibilities of Church organisations' section in 'Protecting all God's Children 2010'. It is in line with 'Promoting a Safer Church': the Church of England policy statement for the children, young people and adults. It recognises that the Church of England is not a single entity. Rather, it consists of many essentially autonomous office holders and other bodies, including both ancient ecclesiastical corporations and modern statutory corporations (many of which are charities). It aims to clarify key safeguarding roles and responsibilities for church office holders and bodies within this complex structure to support a consistent approach to safeguarding across the whole Church. It also contains some helpful templates such as hall hiring arrangements and a job specification for a parish safeguarding officer.

It is hoped that this practice guidance will help church communities further develop clear lines of accountability and leadership responsibilities for the safeguarding arrangements required for all organisations.

RESPONDING TO, ASSESSING AND MANAGING CONCERNS OR ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CHURCH OFFICERS PRACTICE GUIDANCE (2017)

This practice guidance refers to both church officers and congregation members. It is important to ensure that anyone who may pose a risk of harm to other individuals who attend the church is appropriately assessed in conjunction with the DSA and the relevant supervising authority.

Examples include those who have a conviction, who are under investigation by the police or anyone about whom you have safeguarding concerns. This applies to church officers and congregational members. It is vital that you contact your DSA as a matter of urgency in order that a risk assessment, in accordance with current practice guidance, is undertaken.

Risk assessments are carefully and sensitively considered. If you are unsure whether a risk assessment is required, please contact your DSA who can advise you further. Please note this also refers to anyone whose confidential declaration under the safer recruitment process reveals a criminal conviction.

TRAINING

The C0 and C1 training courses are available online. We insist on face-to-face training for those who hold a licence, have permission to officiate, are parish-safeguarding officers or have a position of responsibility in a church.

Face to face safeguarding training is taking place across the diocese and can be accessed here www.leeds.anglican.org/safe-training. Please continue to book places on these courses via Gail O'Neill on – 0113 353 0204 – or email gail.oneill@leeds.anglican.org

SAFEGUARDING ENQUIRIES

If you have a specific safeguarding enquiry, you should contact the diocesan safeguarding adviser for your episcopal area. However, if you have a more general enquiry – about training or where to find information - then you should e-mail enquiries@leeds.anglican.org or 'phone 0113 2000 540.

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 101) - and 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 the

Diocesan Secretary, Mrs Debbie Child, on 07713 623544, who will listen to and 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



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