

How to make use of the Service ?

If you would like to speak to an Authorised Listener then please contact one of the DSAs below:

Jenny Price
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Bradford and Huddersfield Areas
0113 3530 258
07800 740001

Jenny Leccardi
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Wakefield and Leeds Areas
0113 3530 259
07872 005189

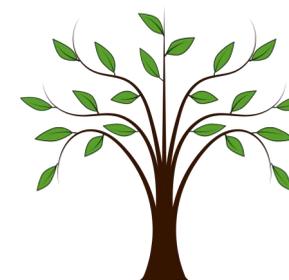
Narinder Lyon
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Ripon Area
0113 3530 256
07872 005309

After the initial contact an arrangement will be made for the person concerned to meet with an Authorised Listener. The DSA will be sympathetic to the needs of the person requesting the service.

This scheme is set up in accordance with the Church of England policy and practice for safeguarding.

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Authorised Listening Service and Supporting Survivors of Abuse



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Who is a Survivor ?

A survivor is anyone who may have experienced abuse, possibly sexual, although abuse takes many forms. We say survivor rather than victim as this is the term most people prefer. It encourages people to reclaim their lives.

What are Authorised Listeners ?

They are church people, some lay, and some ordained, who have come forward to offer a listening service to survivors. They have backgrounds in pastoral work and have been specially recruited and trained for this role.

What do they do ?

They will offer up to three sessions to meet you and hear what you have to say. It is for you to decide whether to meet, whether to meet again and to consider what the possible next steps may be. The listener will not impose any particular course of action on you.

Is Authorised Listening a form of counselling ?

No. It is a much briefer involvement. Survivors are offered up to three sessions with a Listener. If the survivor then requires pastoral support they may be seen additionally. If the survivor wishes to go on to counselling, information and guidance can be offered to explore this.

How long is a session?

Normally around one hour. The Listener will keep a log of times and dates but no confidential information will be logged unless there is a safeguarding concern.

What is a safeguarding concern ?

If information is presented that someone is at risk of harm or a criminal offence has been committed then the Listener will have to contact the DSA for advice and relevant information may be shared.

Is there a charge?

No. This is a voluntary scheme.

Where does the Listener meet the survivor ?

You decide that with the Listener. It will usually be in a neutral place, convenient for both parties and will not be in the Listener's or survivor's home.

What if the perpetrator is a potential risk to others?

As the protection of others is paramount the Listener will be required to pass this information on to the DSA.