



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

MARCH 2019

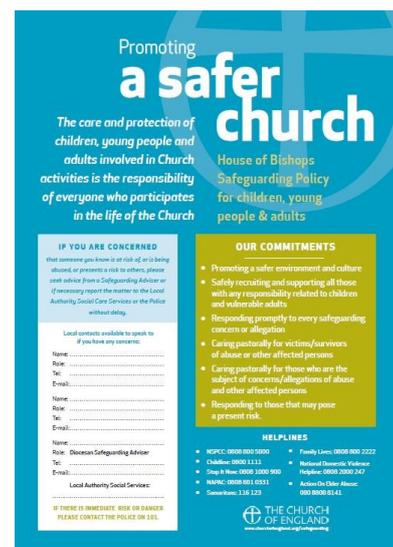
Parish Safeguarding Handbook

A new Parish Safeguarding Handbook has been issued by the national church. The Handbook contains clear information on best practice and emphasises the importance of clear and effective communication. A Checklist of actions that need to be taken by parishes is included.

The Diocese will provide further information and guidance on the Handbook shortly, but in the meantime **please ensure that your church safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of your parish website (i.e. contact details for your parish Safeguarding Coordinator or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor).**

Parishes without a website may wish to provide additional information on their page on A Church Near You. There is already a 'Safeguarding' tab at the foot of each ACNY page which takes the user through to a map highlighting diocesan safeguarding details.

Please ensure that you display the A3 poster on Promoting a Safer Church. The Handbook and Poster will be mailed to each church soon. Electronic copies are available now on the diocesan website.



Reporting incidents to the Charity Commission

All serious safeguarding incidents that take place within parishes must be reported to the Charity Commission. New guidance in 'Guidance for DBFs, PCCs and Religious Communities: Identifying and Reporting Safeguarding Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission', delegate the responsibility for reporting incidents to the Charity Commission and the National Safeguarding Team to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA).

In line with safeguarding policy, it is a requirement that **all safeguarding concerns must be reported to the DSA**, who will provide support to dealing with concerns and reporting to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

31:8 (formerly CCPAS)

The Churches Child Protection Advisory Services (CCPAS) is changing its name to thirty-one: eight. The service will continue to provide:

- Safeguarding advice and guidance outside Church House office hours.
- A listening service for people who have experienced abuse and would like to talk to somebody.
- Support and guidance on DBS checks.

Contact 31:8 on **0303 003 1111**

Safer Recruitment

It is important that all church workers (volunteer and paid) are recruited in line with safer recruitment processes. These include the completion of a self-declaration form, having a job description, references, application form and interview. Please refer to 'Practice Guidance; Safer Recruitment', available on the diocesan website.



In line with good safeguarding practice it is a requirement for self-declaration forms and Enhanced DBS checks to be undertaken by PCC members, as Trustees of a Charity, at parishes where regulated activities take place, e.g. Sunday School. Although PCC members may not work directly with children or adults at risk they have a duty of care towards vulnerable members of the church community and a responsibility to ensure that groups are running safely. Lead recruiters will administer the checks and must contact Lesley Riley (Clergy Support Officer on 0161 828 1403) if any safeguarding information is identified or if support is required with this process.

If you are unsure whether your PCC members need to be checked, or if you have any questions about the process, please call 31:8 (formerly known as CCPAS) on 0303 003 1111.

Training

Clergy have recently undertaken Refresher Clergy Safeguarding Training, including, a Responding to Domestic Abuse Specialist Module.

To ensure that those with key safeguarding responsibilities know what to do if worried or concerned about a child or adult at risk, all Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and relevant others must have safeguarding training.

Online training must be undertaken before taking on any role working with children, young people or adults at risk and is available via the diocesan website.

Parish safeguarding training sessions are held across the diocese and must be attended by workers who are new in post and those who have not attended parish safeguarding training within the last three years. Training can be booked on the diocesan website.

Safeguarding Panel

The Diocesan Safeguarding Panel meets quarterly and is well represented by people with safeguarding roles in the diocese and by statutory partners.

Panel sub groups consider training requirements and complex cases. The safeguarding development plan aims to continually improve diocesan safeguarding practice.

DEALING WITH ANY CONCERNS OR SOMETHING THAT YOU FEEL UNSURE ABOUT

If you are worried about a child or adult who is being harmed or at risk of being harmed, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Abbey Clephane-Wilson (0161 828 1451 / abbey@manchester.anglican.org).

31:8 (formerly CCPAS) may be contacted out of hours on 0303 003 1111.