



WELCOME to the eleventh issue of the newsletter which brings the latest news in relation to policy, procedures and training from the Safeguarding Team to all churches in the Diocese of Ely .

This month we would like to draw your attention to two new Church of England documents;

- Promoting a Safer Church 2017
- Policy and Practice Guidance for Responding Well to Domestic Abuse 2017

### **Promoting a Safer Church 2017**

#### **Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Church of England**

Every Parish should currently have a Policy in relation to Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Harm

The Church of England's National Safeguarding Team has published a new policy statement, "Promoting a Safer Church", which sets out the Church's commitment for making the church a safer place for all. This is a standalone policy statement, which was previously part of a wider document. Uploaded practical guidance to support this will be published later this year.

The document can be found on the following link:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3896819/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>

All parts of the Church of England must adopt or take account of this Policy Statement within their own safeguarding policy. The Policy Statement must actively underpin all safeguarding work within the Church and the drive to improve safeguarding practice.

All Church bodies (this term includes PCCs as well as others) should ensure that:

- all Church Officers have access to this Policy Statement;
- the Policy Statement is promoted and publicised;
- the Church's safeguarding message is communicated as reflected in the policy;
- they have a "Promoting a Safer Church" action plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed regularly. (We have no further guidance on this action plan at present and will update you when we know more)



# Responding Well to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Practice Guidance 2017

The revised Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Guidance replaces the 'Responding to Domestic Abuse Guidelines for those with pastoral responsibilities 2006'

The document can be found on the following link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3896806/responding-well-to-domestic-abuse-2017.pdf>

Page 10 relates specifically to Parishes, under the heading 'What do you need to do in a Parish?' This section gives guidance and recommended good practice.

Also, on page 46, Appendix 5 is a parish template for a Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse which should be adopted by all Parishes.

## What you need to do :

- Please read and adopt the Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement of the Church of England. I advise that you replace your current policy statements with this new document.
- As a PCC, please pay due regard to the Policy and Practice Guidance 'Responding Well to Domestic Abuse 2017', and adopt and implement the available parish template as a Parish Policy.

## PCC Members and DBS checks

You will have seen in the Church of England Practice Guidance—Safer Recruitment July 2016 (Appendix 8 section C) if states the following :

***"C. Charity Trustees of children's or vulnerable adult's charities<sup>36</sup>. The Charity Commission recommends that trustees always obtain a criminal record check when eligible to do so as it an important tool in ensuring that the person is suitable to act***

*If a governing body is registered as a charity and provided it sponsors and approves, in its own name, children's work or work with adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect then the members of the governing body will be eligible for an enhanced criminal record check without barring information. This may relate to PCCs, Cathedrals Chapters, Religious Communities, NCI Pension Board etc. **In such cases all members of the governing body will be eligible."***

We have received a number of queries relating to this but Ely Diocese aims to achieve best practice and robustly recommend this guidance is followed. When processing DBS checks please take into account any other roles the PCC member may have within the church as this may change the level of check required to enhanced with barred list check, for example a PCC member, who is also a licensed lay minister.

**Overseas Criminal Record Checks for military personnel and their families.** Unfortunately we are still waiting to receive a final directive on this particular matter.

# New Church of England Safeguarding Training Framework

The Church of England has now developed a new safeguarding training framework which is currently being rolled out across the whole church. The new training is standardised across diocese, parishes and cathedrals and will be tailored to the role that any church volunteer or employee is undertaking.

Safeguarding Training needs to be renewed every three years (*or when someone is taking on a new role which requires a different level of training*). In Ely Cathedral this will happen as part of a rolling program as people take up a position or when existing staff and volunteers are due for updates. Every new member of staff and every volunteer will be required to complete C0, a basic Safeguarding awareness course which can be done online.

Thereafter, depending on their role or job description further training may be required if they have responsibility or contact with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable or at risk.

## TRAINING FRAMEWORK - Core training materials

### C0 Basic Awareness

For anyone who needs basic level of safeguarding awareness. All staff and volunteers. Available online.

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>

### C1 Foundation Level

For anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities or who has contact with children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable.

### C2 Leadership

Required for anyone who has safeguarding leadership responsibilities or responsibility for leading activities involving children, young people, and/or adults who may be vulnerable.

### C3 Clergy & Lay Ministers

Required for those holding a licence, commission, authorisation, or permission to officiate from a Bishop- Ordained and Lay.

### C4 Senior Staff

Required for Senior Staff/Clergy who have key roles in safeguard-

ing policy, strategy and practice

In addition to these core training materials the Church of England has produced specialist module **S1—Safer Recruitment** and **S3 — Raising Awareness and Responding Well to Domestic Abuse** .

S1 training is essential (required) for

- those with responsibility for administering DBS
- Clergy and those with recruitment responsibilities (for example designated members of PCCs or members of staff who regularly sit on interview panels)
- Senior staff where they are involved in recruitment
- Diocesan/Parish/Cathedral Safeguarding Officers
- Safeguarding Leads on PCC/within Religious Communities/within TEIs

S3 training is essential (required) for

- Anyone holding the Bishop's Licence or Permission to Officiate
- Spiritual Directors
- Bishops Visitors
- Pastoral Visitors
- Leaders of children/adults activities
- Diocesan/Parish/Cathedral Safeguarding Officers

## Who can I talk to?

**Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese of Ely** Sarah King, Tel: 01353 652735 Email: sarah.king@elydiocese.org

**Safeguarding Adviser for the Diocese of Ely** Rebecca Boswell Tel:01353652731 Email:rebecca.boswell@elydiocese.org

**Cambridgeshire Children's Social Care** Telephone: 0345 045 5203

**Cambridgeshire Adult Services : 0345 045 5202**

**Cambridgeshire Constabulary** Telephone: 111 (in an emergency call 999)

*We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.*