



COVID-19 – SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

23rd March 2020

Dear Parish Safeguarding Colleagues

The team is thinking very much of our parish colleagues and the amazing work you are doing in such challenging and strange times, learning to be church in new ways.

Safeguarding Queries

Our team are available by email and phone to answer your safeguarding queries:

Concerns & Allegations

Steph Haynes T: 07342 993 844 E: stephh@cofebirmingham.com

You should continue to report all emergency situations/serious concerns to statutory partners in the usual way. Safety is a priority – never delay a referral if you cannot get hold of the safeguarding team.

Safe practice, policy, safer recruitment, training, general queries

Claire Wesley T: 0121 426 0432 E: clairew@cofebirmingham.com

Safer recruitment, general queries

Sarah Rose T: 0121 426 0400 E: sarahr@cofebirmingham.com

Training

Laura Rutherford T: 07747246858 E: laurar@cofebirmingham.com

Training support/administration

Peter Cozens T: 0121 426 0400 E: safeguardingsupport@cofebirmingham.com

Safer Recruitment

You can continue to process your DBS applications online. Thirtyone:eight's disclosure helpline remains open to answer your DBS queries: 0303 003 1111 Option 1

Checking ID documents

To ensure that the necessary DBS checks can still be carried out, the DBS enhanced ID checking guidance has been changed for a temporary period, from 20th March 2020. The change will enable:

- ID documents to be viewed over video link
- Scanned/photographs of images to be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted

The applicant must present the original versions of these documents when they first attend their employment/volunteering role to the Parish Identity Verifier. (Where this is not possible the documents must be presented to the leader of the activity who must confirm to the Parish Identity Verifier the original documents they have seen).

Safeguarding Training

All of our face-to-face safeguarding training is suspended until the end of May 2020. We will review our training programme for June and July in line with government advice at the time. We hope to be able to offer a full training programme from September 2020, with additional sessions where needed to ensure that everyone who needs to can complete/renew their required training by the end of the year - again this will be dependent on government advice at that time.

The basic and awareness safeguarding modules remain available online at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>. Any role that is required to complete these modules must continue to do so at renewal (every three years) or as soon as possible after taking up their new role.

We continue to pray daily for all of our parish colleagues in our – now virtual – office prayers and wish you all, good health and the peace of Christ.

Steph, Sarah, Claire, Laura & Peter
The Church of England Safeguarding Team