

Safeguarding Update – July 2018

Updated Safeguarding Policies & Procedures



In October 2017 the House of Bishops' issued two practice guidance documents. A PCC is required, under safeguarding legislation¹, to ensure that these guidance documents are implemented in their church.

The Church of England – Birmingham has issued summaries of these documents that give details of how they must be implemented in this diocese. The summaries focus on what the local church must do, provide information to raise awareness of the issues for parish safeguarding co-ordinators and church leaders and signpost to resources that can assist with putting them into practice.

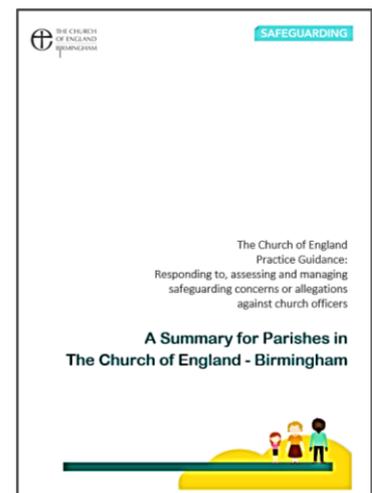
The summaries can be found on our website at www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/safeguarding/policies
Click on the 'our policy summaries for parishes' tab

Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against church officers

A summary of what the parish needs to do is included in the flowchart on page 4 and the graphics on page 8. The parish safeguarding co-ordinator and vicar **MUST** read this summary. All concerns and allegations against a church officer² **MUST** be referred to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser.

As well as attendance at safeguarding training, the 'Need to Talk' poster and 'Small Guide to Safeguarding' produced by the safeguarding team and distributed to parishes during 2016-17 are essential resources for raising awareness of how to respond and report concerns in the local church.

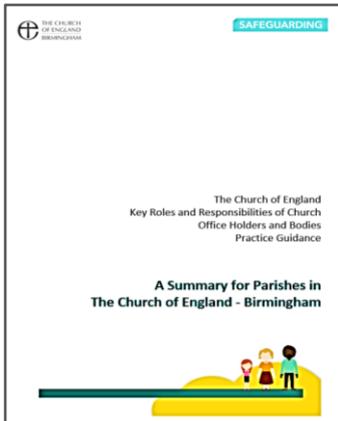
If you need further copies of these, please email safeguardingsupport@cofebirmingham.com



¹ The Safeguarding Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, Measure 5, places a duty on PCCs, those who hold a Bishop's license, permission, authorisation or commission and church wardens to give due regard to all House of Bishops' safeguarding policy and practice guidance

² A church officer is anyone who is appointed or elected to a role on behalf of the church, whether they are lay or ordained, paid or unpaid.

Key roles and responsibilities of church office holders and bodies



This guidance sets out the safeguarding responsibilities of the PCC, incumbent, church wardens, parish safeguarding co-ordinator and parish identity verifier. All those who hold these offices in the local church **MUST** read this summary and understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

The summary includes a checklist for a PCC to assess how well it currently complies with safeguarding requirements and identify areas for improvement. The checklist is also available as a Microsoft Word document in the 'Resources for PCCs' area of our website: www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/safeguarding/policies

God's Children: Our Diocese and Parish Pack for Safeguarding Adults

The Church of England – Birmingham has agreed to adopt and implement all of the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy and practice guidance and these policies have therefore been replaced by our 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy statement.

We will implement these policy statements by following all House of Bishops' safeguarding practice guidance. Our parish summaries outline how our local churches must implement our procedures.

The good practice guidance, templates and example forms from our previous policies are still available on the safeguarding children and safeguarding adults pages of our website:

SAFEGUARDING
Children Resources

SAFEGUARDING
Adult Resources

www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/safeguarding/children www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/safeguarding/adults

Steph, Sarah & Claire

The Church of England – Birmingham Safeguarding Team