



# Survivor's Care Strategy

March 2022

Version: Final Draft March 2022

Authorised by the Diocesan and Cathedral Safeguarding Advisory Panel 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Adopted by the Archbishops Council on behalf of Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance on  
9<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Adopted by Canterbury Cathedral Chapter on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Review date March 2024

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This strategy has been developed because both the Diocese of Canterbury and Canterbury Cathedral recognise the importance of and are committed to, ensuring that victims and survivors of abuse, are cared for and supported well, irrespective of the context in which the abuse took place.
- 1.2 This strategy has also been developed as a requirement Church of England Guidance *'Responding to Victims and Survivors of Abuse'* (2021) for all Church Bodies to ensure they respond well to victims and survivors of abuse. This strategy and should also be read alongside the procedural response guidance set out in *'Practice guidance: Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against Church Officers'* (2017), *'Practice guidance: Responding to safeguarding concerns or allegations that relate to children, young people and vulnerable adults'* (2018) and *'The Parish Safeguarding Handbook'* (2019) and *'Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults'* (2021)

## 2. Aim

- 2.1 The Survivor Care Strategy (hereafter referred to as The Strategy) has been developed for victims and survivors of church related abuse, those affected by abuse and those close to them. In making provision for survivors to access support, advice and a care the strategy is part of our commitment to ensure that those hurt by abuse find compassion and people ready to travel patiently alongside them.
- 2.2 The Strategy will underpin the safeguarding practice in the Diocese of Canterbury and Canterbury Cathedral. The Strategy will be used by the Safeguarding Team, the Diocesan Safeguarding Executive Group, the Cathedral Safeguarding Executive Group, the Diocesan and Cathedral Safeguarding Advisory Panel, the Diocesan Episcopal Senior Team, Cathedral Chapter and clergy and Church officers responding to allegations of abuse within the Church, to guide them in supporting any victims or survivors of abuse.
- 2.3 The Strategy does not cover support to respondents of abuse or their families. The Church of England Guidance *'Responding to Victims and Survivors of Abuse'* (2021) sets out the specific requirements for support, including therapeutic support, the role of a Support Person, spiritual and pastoral support for victims and survivors and finally the issuing of apologies. Both the Diocese of Canterbury and Canterbury Cathedral are committed to adhering to the support outlined within the *'Responding to Victims and Survivors of Abuse'* (2021) guidance.
- 2.4 It is important to acknowledge that abuse is perpetrated by some clergy and others in positions of responsibility and trust, and to recognise that survivors have often found an inadequate response from our churches. In doing so, we seek to open the way for creating communities that are as safe as we can make them for all to belong, and where survivors can relate their experiences, confident that they will be heard and receive pastoral care and support'.

### **3. Diocesan and Cathedral Approach**

- 3.1 In every case where abuse becomes known, the well-being of those with lived experience of abuse will be given paramount consideration when contact is made. Where the individual disclosing the abuse is also the victim or survivor, every care will be taken to ensure that they feel supported, listened to and believed.
- 3.2 Where it becomes apparent that there may be other victims or survivors of abuse and they have not contacted the Diocese or Cathedral directly, it will be important that time is taken to consider the current circumstances of the individual and if they have previously indicated their willingness to be contacted by the Diocese or Cathedral. In addition to this a discussion with the DSA and potentially Core Group members, will decide who would be the most appropriate person to make contact with them.
- 3.2 Planning the approach to any individual will involve a gentle, non-intrusive contact to see if further discussion or involvement would be welcomed. Communication with an advocate or Support Person will be available to anyone that the Diocese or Cathedral seeks to engage with in this way.

### **4. Support, Advice and Therapeutic Services**

- 4.1 In all cases of abuse the Diocese and Cathedral will adhere to the guidance for support as set out '*Responding to Victims and Survivors of Abuse*' (2021), where this does not interfere with any statutory processes. This also includes provision for a Support Person and therapeutic support (please refer to sections 4 and 5 of '*Responding to Victims and Survivors of Abuse*' (2021) for full details).
- 4.2 In addition to this victims and survivors will be signposted to local support and advice, where this does not interfere with any statutory processes.
- 4.3 Further consideration will also be given as to whether a referral to the Diocesan Authorised Listener scheme.