

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

### **CHURCH DETAILS**

**Name:** The Benefice of Fulbourn and The Wilbrahams (hereafter “The Church”)

**Church Office:** ‘Twelve’, 15 High Street, Fulbourn, Cambs, CB21 5DH

**Tel No:** 01223 882070

**Email address:** [parishassistant@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parishassistant@hotmail.co.uk)

**Rector:** The Revd Alice Goodman

The Rectory

2 Apthorpe Street

Fulbourn

CB21 5EY

**Tel no:** 01223 880337

**Denomination/Organisation:** Church of England

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Parochial Church Council (hereafter referred to as the PCC) recognises the importance of its ministry to children and young people and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the church's care. The church aims to create a culture of “informed vigilance” which takes concerns seriously.

As part of its mission, the Church is committed to:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the children's/youth workers within the church. DBS checks to be made where applicable.
- Paying particular attention to vulnerable adults to ensure their safety and integration into the church community. A vulnerable adult is any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care of or protect themselves.
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers
- Supporting those attending the church who have been affected by abuse.
- Maintaining good links with the statutory childcare authorities and other organisations.

## **CHURCH POLICY**

The PCC recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. It also acknowledges that children and young people can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. The PCC has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter "the policy"). It also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies.

The PCC undertakes to file a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Social Care, and any amendments subsequently published.

The PCC is committed to on-going child protection training for all children/youth workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.

The PCC also undertakes to follow the principles found within the Abuse Of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office. It is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

## **RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE**

Under no circumstances should a church worker carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to Mrs. Rachel Kindred (hereafter the "Safeguarding Officer) tel no: 07836 229296, who is nominated by the PCC to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- The Safeguarding Officer may also be required by conditions of the Church Insurance Policy to immediately inform the Insurance Company.
- The Safeguarding Officer is also required, as part of their denominational policy, to inform The Bishop of Ely's Safeguarding Advisor, Rebecca Boswell tel: 01353 652731.

- In the absence of the Safeguarding Officer, or if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Officer, then the report should be made to Mrs Chris Bennett (hereafter the Contact for Children) tel no: 01223 882647. If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Officer and the Contact for Children, then the report should be made in the first instance to the Bishop of Ely's Safeguarding Advisor, Rebecca Boswell (tel: 01353 652731) or the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ (telephone 0845 120 4550).
- Alternatively contact the Cambridgeshire County Council's Child Protection Service (telephone number 0345 045 5203 8am to 6pm Monday-Friday). The out of hours emergency number is 01733 234724.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with church procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Officer, the absence of the Safeguarding Officer or Contact for Children should not delay referral to the Cambridgeshire County Council's Child Protection Service.
- The PCC will support the Safeguarding Officer and Contact for Children in their roles, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies or seek advice from The Bishop of Ely's Safeguarding Advisor or CCPAS, but the PCC hopes that members of the church will use the above procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Officer / Contact for Children have not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the PCC demonstrates the commitment of the church to effective protection of children and vulnerable adults.

The role of the Safeguarding Officer and Contact for Children is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to the Child Protection Service. It is Child Protection Service's task to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

## **ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, NEGLECT OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

If a child has a worrying physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Safeguarding Officer /Contact for Children will follow these guidelines:

- Contact the Child Protection Service (or The Bishop of Ely's Safeguarding Advisor or CCPAS) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Will not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted the Child Protection Service.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact the Child Protection Service directly for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by The Bishop of Ely's Safeguarding Advisor or CCPAS (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to the Child Protection Service.

## **ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Safeguarding Officer /Contact for Children will:

- Contact the Child Protection Services or the Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by The Bishop of Ely's Safeguarding Advisor or CCPAS if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact the Child Protection Service/Police. CCPAS will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

## **ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST A PERSON WHO WORKS WITH CHILDREN**

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff), the Safeguarding Officer will liaise with the Child Protection Service and/or The Bishop of Ely's Safeguarding Advisor with regards to the suspension of the worker.

## **APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION & TRAINING OF LEADERS & WORKERS**

The PCC will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in the Diocese of Ely's Safeguarding Policy and the Church practice guidelines available in the Safeguarding Folder. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

## **SUPERVISION OF GROUP/CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

The PCC will provide details of the supervision for each specific activity in the church practice guidelines contained in the Safeguarding Folder available in the churches and in Twelve.

## **SUPPORT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE**

The PCC is committed to offering pastoral care and support, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, to those attending the church who have been affected by abuse.

## **WORKING WITH OFFENDERS**

When someone attending the church is known to have abused children, the PCC will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care and support, but in its commitment to the protection of children, will set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

Further information can be found in the Diocese of Ely's Safeguarding Policy

[www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding/diocese-of-ely-policies-and-guidance](http://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding/diocese-of-ely-policies-and-guidance)