



Diocese of Bristol Domestic Abuse Statement

Diocese of Bristol Domestic Abuse Policy, 2017

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting safer environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- refuse to condone any form of abuse;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will respond to domestic abuse:

In all our activities by –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst appreciating the need to ensure a distance is kept between the two and refusing to condone the perpetration or continuation of any form of abuse.

Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Email: Safeguarding@bristoldiocese.org

Diocesan Office, First Floor, Hillside House, 1500 Parkway North, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8YU

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In our publicity by –

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised by –

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care by –

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Diocese of Bristol contact for advice and support for Parishes and other church bodies is the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, 0117 9060100

- All concerns reported to the Diocese in respect of Church officers and Domestic abuse will be monitored and recorded by the Diocese Safeguarding Team
- Support is available to all Parishes in implementing a Domestic Abuse policy and related practice Guidance
- Training is provided by the Diocese for all those in leadership, safeguarding and pastoral positions in the Diocese and Parishes
- The Diocese will work in partnership with specialist agencies including Police, Local Authorities, Community Safety Partnerships to support victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse.
- Bishops Visitors are available to support the partners of clergy whose relationships are affected or broken down as a result of Domestic Abuse, Bishops Visitors can be contacted in confidence through the ministry Development team: <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/bishops-visitor/>

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