

Safeguarding Worksheet 4A

Victims and survivors of abuse

Safeguarding Standard 4 relates to victims and survivors.

The [Our Parish](#) booklet includes the following indicators of 'what good looks like':

- Our parish hears, respects, believes and genuinely cares for those who are reporting abuse.
- Our parish responds to safeguarding disclosures in a victim-centred and trauma-informed way.
- Our parish is aware of the routes to disclosure and the processes that follow and can communicate that to those who report abuse.
- Our parish acts on safeguarding concerns appropriately, transparently and in a timely manner.
- Our parish fulfils the support requirements set out in the '[Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse](#)' House of Bishops' Guidance.
- Our parish also supports victims and survivors of non-Church based abuse, abuse within churches other than the Church of England, and those with broader safeguarding issues (e.g., mental health, homelessness) in accessing relevant support services.
- Our parish ensures that the Bible and Christian theology is used with victims and survivors sensitively and with their consent, to provide care and support.

[Our Parish](#) booklet - page 3

Therefore, the incumbent and Parish Safeguarding Officer might like to meet and consider how the church might better respond to victims and survivors of abuse.

In preparation for the meeting

Where appropriate, the incumbent and Parish Safeguarding Officer could seek the views of known victims and survivors of abuse.¹

The incumbent and Parish Safeguarding Officer could consider if it would be helpful to invite other people to the meeting (e.g. clergy, readers, churchwardens, victims and survivors of abuse).

During the meeting

Please discuss the indicators of 'what good looks like' at the top of this page.

What actions could be taken to help the church better respond to victims and survivors of abuse?

Repeating this discussion

The National Safeguarding Team recommends a three-year cycle for implementing and reviewing the *Safeguarding Standards*.²

This worksheet could be used at least once during this three-year cycle.

¹ Please don't ask a victim or survivor if it's unlikely that they would want to be involved, or if you have concerns about it triggering past abuse.

² [National Safeguarding Standards and QA Framework](#) - page 4