

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Please let Karen Setchfield know if your role has changed.
Karen.Setchfield@peterborough-diocese.org.uk



Hello and Welcome to the September issue of our Safeguarding Newsletter. Apologies it has taken such a long time to publish and share.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Team has had a few changes this year. Firstly, we would like to say farewell to our former Assistant DSA, Sam Jackson. She left the team in the first week of May to work as a safeguarding advisor in another organisation and we wish her every luck and best wishes in this new role.

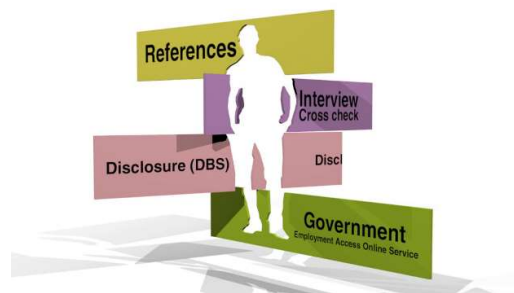
On 02 August 2021, our new Assistant DSA, Jasmine Silver, started then left on 09 September 2021. For the short time she was with us she brought enthusiasm and her knowledge and experiences in supporting offenders and victims / survivors. Jasmine started to develop some safeguarding project work which will be on-going. So a thank you to Jasmine.

On 13 September 2021, Christine Lamb joined the team. Christine was previously a Designated Officer for Northamptonshire Local Authority and brings a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience in relation to safeguarding and keeping people safe. Christine is enthusiastic and has a great 'Can Do' attitude and I feel blessed that she is now part of the team. We continue to receive the invaluable support of Sharon Welbourne, who does so much to ensure the smooth running of the training sessions and the Dashboard App, as well as performing her other role within the Diocese. Exciting times ahead as the next layers, foundations and projects for the DSA team and the Diocese begin to unfurl.

We appreciate that there have been so many challenges over the past 18 months, we have all had to develop ways to adapt our way of working and providing support, and you have all done a fantastic job of keeping safeguarding at the forefront. Safeguarding is at the heart of the Church of England, and it is because of your hard work and dedication to support children, young people and vulnerable adults, that we can protect the most vulnerable in our communities. We have enjoyed engaging with you in our many virtual training sessions, and we look forward to meeting even more of you in the coming months – who knows this might even be face-to-face.

Despite all the hardships that we have faced either personally or professionally, together, within our Diocese, we are making our churches safe places to be – safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. This issue of the newsletter provides an update on: the new Safer Recruitment policy; the confidential self-declaration form as part of the DBS process; Safeguarding Sunday and contact details for support agencies. So, please grab some refreshments and read on:

Safer Recruitment and People Management



The National Safeguarding Teams ‘Safer Recruitment and People Management’ (SRMP) policy will replace the current Safer Recruitment guidance. It comes into being on 01 January 2022.

There are not many changes to the safer recruitment process, so please don’t see the document and think – oh my goodness.

The revisions made to the guidance intend to offer clarity and detail on key areas which have been consistently raised as areas of concern and confusion such as: DBS eligibility criteria, reference checking requirements and to whom this guidance applies.

The new guidance includes a toolkit consisting of a number of forms designed to help you, as well as an assessment tool to help review and understand current safer

recruitment and people management practices and procedures, and easily identify where there may be gaps in processes.

It is written in two parts – ‘Requirements’ (in blue boxes) and ‘Good Practice’ explaining how to achieve the Requirements.

This guidance can be found on the Church of England’s new e-manual. All other guidance will be transferred from the national website to the e-manual in due course. The e-manual can be found at;

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual>

The DSA team will also be updating the Diocesan Safeguarding Team website to ensure that all of the updates are available in ‘bite size chunks’. The relevant section of the website can be found here and will be updated ready for January 2022.

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/code-of-practice/toolkit-4->

Please note in particular: DBS checks are to be renewed every three years instead of every five years. Parishes must plan for and fully implement this particular change by January 2024 at the latest. Other than this, the guidance must be implemented by January 2022.

If you have any questions then please contact the authors of the document:

- Deborah McGovern: deborah.mcgovern@churchofengland.org
- Clare Worrell: clare.worrell@churchofengland.org



The DSA team are pleased to announce that the training for the ‘Safer Recruitment and People Management’ is now available on-line and can be accessed here:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

This course is essential for:

- Line Managers
- Anyone involved in the recruitment of Church Officers (including employees, elected members and volunteers)
- Those with responsibility for administering DBS (Lead Recruiters or Recruiters)

- Parish / Benefice / Cathedral Safeguarding Officers

Self-Declaration Form



When a DBS is being progressed a self-declaration form should be completed. This will identify if there are any concerns prior to submitting the DBS check.

At the start of the start of the safer recruitment process, where an individual is going to work or volunteer with vulnerable people, ask him / her to complete a 'Confidential Declaration' which, in broad summary, asks if there is any reason why he / she should not be working with children and adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. It can also help to identify any issues that might need resolving at an early stage. Having a criminal record may not necessarily be a bar to working with children or adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect.

The DSA team is there to provide advice to the person responsible for the appointment and must be contacted if an applicant discloses any information in the Confidential Declaration. Should the applicant not wish to complete the Confidential Declaration, which is entirely his / her choice, the application must not proceed further and must be terminated.

The form is on our website and can be found here: <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/safeguarding/toolkit-vpw-3.docx>

If anyone has any questions, please do contact the DSA team.

Safeguarding Sunday

10th October 2021

This autumn, join hundreds of churches across the country who together, will be turning a spotlight on safeguarding.

An exciting opportunity to highlight and celebrate the importance of safeguarding, and to thank all of those who undertake the work of making our churches safe and welcoming every day.

Whether churches can give just a few minutes or dedicate their whole service, Safeguarding Sunday is a really helpful and important way of focusing on all the work that goes on 365 days a year in our churches to make them safe places. Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message. If you need any ideas or resources to carry out Safeguarding Sunday then information is available here:

[Activity Ideas \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](http://thirtyoneeight.org)

FREE Resources Pack at: [Safeguarding Sunday \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](http://thirtyoneeight.org)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-news-and-releases/support-safeguarding-sunday>

It would be really great to hear from parishes, benefices and the Cathedral regarding this so please email Bev Huff: bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk or Christine Lamb: Christine.Lamb@peterborough-diocese.org.uk of how you promoted safeguarding and we can share the news in our next newsletter.

Help & Support



If you, or someone you know, is dealing with a safeguarding situation which impacts on you then please let your incumbent, Rural Dean, Archdeacon or the DSA team know and we will ensure that appropriate support is put in place for you and your families.

As well as those statutory and volunteer agencies within your area there are also some National organisations who provide support to people who have been abused.

- **Action on Elder Abuse Helpline:** [080 8808 8141](tel:080088088141) (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm)
- **Child-line:** [0800 1111](tel:08001111) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything

- **Cruse:** [0800 808 1677](tel:08008081677) bereavement helpline
- **MACSAS: Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors.** [0808 801 0340](tel:08088010340) support for those abused by ministers, clergy or others under the guise of the church
- **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline:** [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline:** [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.
- **NAPAC: National Association for People Abused in Childhood.** [0808 801 0331](tel:08088010331). Support for adults abused as children
- **Safer Spaces:** A free and independent support service providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with the Church of England, Catholic Church of England and Wales or the church in Wales. [0300 303 1056](tel:03003031056) or email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk.
- **Samaritans Helpline:** [116 123](tel:116123) (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.
- **Stop It Now:** [0808 1000 900](tel:08081000900) preventing child sexual abuse
- **Survivors Trust:** [01788 550554](tel:01788550554). Support for men who have experienced sexual assault or rape

NOTIFICATION FOR SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS



Any safeguarding concerns, referrals that have been made to our statutory partners and any allegations of crimes that have been committed **must** be brought to the attention of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Team

Who do I contact?

Safeguarding concerns:

Beverly Huff, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 01733 887040 or e-mail at: bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Christine Lamb, Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01733 887041 or e-mail at: christine.lamb@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

DBS Checks:

If you have any questions about safer recruitment or DBS checks then please contact
Thirtyone:eight DBS enquiries: 0303 003 1111

Safeguarding Training Modules

See our training link on Peterborough Diocese website under safeguarding:
<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/training/training>

or contact

Sharon Welbourne: 01733 887027 or e- mail at: sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk



REMINDERS

1. If someone discloses to you something which amounts to an offence you must inform the DSA team and in an emergency call 999 / 101
2. If you make a referral about a young person or vulnerable adult during your role within a church, then the DSA team must be informed and any referral forms copied to them
3. Please let Karen Setchfield know if you are new to your role or your role has changed: karen.setchfield@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

4. If, as a church officer, someone disclosed something to you which you did not report or raise the concern at the time or subsequently then please speak with the DSA team
5. Coming soon – DSA drop in sessions where you can contact your DSA team to discuss any safeguarding concerns, training enquiries, policy and procedure clarification, sign-posting, well-being support or just a natter and a cup of tea. We look forward to welcoming you soon!
6. The DSA team are working on projects with the Mothers Union in raising awareness on safeguarding matters such as domestic abuse, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation etc. a big thank you to Jill Cannings and Nicola Vaughan – more about that in the next newsletter but here is a link to their website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/diocese/peterborough>

THANK YOU



TAKING CARE OF YOURS AND OTHERS MENTAL WELLBEING

Can I say a big thank you to those of you who have supported me during the difficult period I have been through and am now coming out of, your messages, calls and prayers are very much appreciated.

If you, or someone you know, are dealing with a safeguarding situation or are finding things difficult then please let your incumbent, Rural Dean, Archdeacon or the DSA team know and we will ensure that appropriate support is put in place for you and your families.

It can sometimes be hard to know what to do or say when supporting someone who is going through an emotionally difficult time, especially during the pandemic. Also, if you are living with a mental health problem, or supporting someone who is, then having access to the right information - about a condition, treatment options, or practical issues - is extremely useful. The charity 'MIND' has such information aimed at helping friends, family, carers and others to give support and take care of yourselves too. Their website can be found here: <https://www.mind.org.uk/>