

Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance apply to all Church bodies and officers<sup>1,2</sup>. Full understanding of, and adherence to, these policies should lead to a deepening in the understanding of, and respect for, the rights of children, young people and adults as people of faith in the life of the Church. Building on this, Church bodies may provide additional local procedures and guidance in line with the House of Bishops policy and practice guidance.

### **Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016<sup>3</sup>**

Under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, all authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs must have '**due regard**' to safeguarding guidance ([sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Church of England Safeguarding Policy Children Young People and Adults 2017](#)) issued by the House of Bishops, (this will include both policy and practice guidance). A duty to have 'due regard' to guidance means that the person under the duty is not free to disregard it but is required to follow such guidance unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so, ("cogent" for this purpose means clear, logical and convincing). Failure by clergy to comply with the duty imposed by the 2016 Measure may result in disciplinary action.

*The above is taken from Church of England Safeguarding Children Young People, Adults 2017*

<sup>1</sup> Church Bodies, include parishes, dioceses, cathedrals, religious communities, theological training institutions, NCIs and other associated bodies. NCIs include The Archbishops' Council; Bishopthorpe Palace; The Church Commissioners; The Church of England Central Services; The Church of England Pensions Board; Lambeth Palace; National Society for Promoting Religious Education; Trustees of the Lambeth Palace Library. This policy will apply to the whole of the provinces of Canterbury and York (including the Diocese in Europe subject to local variations/modifications). There is also an expectation that the policy will apply to the Channel Islands and Sodor and Man unless there is specific local legislation in a jurisdiction that would prevent adoption.

<sup>2</sup> A "Church Officer" is anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid

<sup>3</sup> The Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 applies to the whole of the provinces of Canterbury and York (including the Diocese in Europe subject to local variations/modifications), with the exception of the Channel Islands and Sodor and Man. In order to extend the 2016 Measure to the Channel Islands or Sodor and Man legislation will need to be passed by the relevant island jurisdictions in accordance with section 12 of that Measure