

Safeguarding and the Diocese of Oxford Local Ministry Programme

Good practice requires an annual review of safeguarding, so the Oversight Body is asked to consider whether it wishes to maintain or amend this statement, originally endorsed at its meeting on 13th October 2015 and reviewed annually since.

Ensuring good safeguarding policies and practices for both children and adults is rightly high on the church's agenda. Within the Diocese of Oxford we have a professional safeguarding team and have developed extensive policies and guidance in the area of safeguarding. Key safeguarding contacts and current guidance is given on the diocesan website here:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/safeguarding/>

In particular, the latest version of our diocesan safeguarding handbook is available here:

<http://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/safeguarding/safeguarding-handbook/>.

Guidance from the national Church is available here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church-safeguarding>

We therefore do not have detailed separate safeguarding policies for the Local Ministry Programme. Rather we are committed to the following:

- 1) All ordinands, LLMs in training and other learners undertaking a Durham Award (and therefore formally undertaking a placement under the auspices of the LMP) will receive safeguarding training within their first year of training, and before undertaking any placement outside their 'home' parish/benefice. Details and dates for all safeguarding training opportunities will be found at: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/support-services/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>
- 2) All ordinands and LLMs in training already receive DBS clearance before entering training. We ensure that other learners receive appropriate clearance through their parish.
- 3) Part of the role description of a placement supervisor is to 'ensure that any work with children or vulnerable adults is carried out in accordance with good practice and with the safeguarding policy of the parish/placement institution'.
- 4) We have contracted with the Diocese of Guildford (the lead institution for Common Awards in the Regional Training Partnership consortium) that we will maintain our own safeguarding policy in accordance with House of Bishops guidelines. The other institutions in the RTP consortium have also contracted similarly.
- 5) Any concerns in the area of safeguarding will, in accordance with diocesan policy, be reported to our own Diocesan Safeguarding Team, in addition to any referrals being made to statutory authorities as appropriate. However, if the concern affects a student or member of staff in the RTP consortium, this will also be notified to the Guildford Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (as will any concerns from within other institutions in the RTP TEI).

Reporting safeguarding concerns remains the responsibility of all learners and staff.

Approved LMP Oversight 22 Oct 2021