
Safeguarding News

July 2015

New Policies and Guidance

If you have attended Safeguarding Training any time in the past 12 months, you will have heard us talking about the new policies that were in first draft stage, then out for consultation, back for amendment, then with the House of Bishops for approval. Well, finally they're HERE.

At the end of June we had confirmation that we were now to start using the new policies and practice guidance in relation to safeguarding. However, as there are 6 new policies and guidance that we have to consider, it may be a while before we are able to integrate

them all fully into our training and the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy

The documents are all available on the Church of England website at www.churchofengland.org - in the search box at the top type in "safeguarding" and it will take you to the list of policies. We will get them on to our local website as soon as possible.

The new documents are:

- ◇ Safer Recruitment
- ◇ Safeguarding for LEP's
- ◇ Safeguarding Records
- ◇ Safeguarding in Religious Communities
- ◇ Serious Safeguarding Situations
- ◇ Risk Assessments



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Pilot Training

If you attended the pilot of the Safe Leadership Course in February and gave us feedback, you will be pleased to know that this has been passed to the National Church Training Adviser for Safeguarding, and as a result of feedback from all of the pilots a decision has been made that there is too much content and the day ends up feeling rushed, with not enough time to discuss what you are learning.

The National Team are going to review the new training programmes and roll them out later in 2016 once they have been re-written to take account of all the feedback. Thank you for your help with this process

Training dates for 2015

We have planned the following Safeguarding Training Events for 2015. All are full day events aimed at Safeguarding People and Clergy unless otherwise stated, although Readers, PTO Clergy, Lay Pastoral Assistants and others wanting Safeguarding Training are also welcome to attend the morning only or all day. The afternoon session focuses on safer recruitment. Please get in touch to book your place. We have added Deanery information for you to work out which one is closest to you—but you are welcome to attend wherever you are from in the Diocese.

Monday 7 September - Clevedon (Portishead Deanery)

Tuesday 22 September Holy Trinity Bridgewater (Sedgemoor Deanery)

Thursday 15 October - The Old Deanery, Wells – THIS DAY FOR NEW CLERGY ONLY

Friday 6 November - Locking Castle (Locking Deanery)

Monday 9 November – Holy Trinity Bath (evening session—local invite only)

Just a reminder that ALL clergy, (including PTO clergy) readers and safeguarding people should attend training at least once every 3 years.



Questions and Resources

Whenever we run training courses, there are always some questions which we don't have time to discuss on the day. In this section I hope to be able to answer some of those questions.

Q: What is "Safeguarding"?

A: Contrary to some popular belief, safeguarding is more than Child Protection and a DBS form. It has 4 key elements:

Promote — We can talk about safeguarding, encourage appropriate behaviour and language, and have safeguarding resources available such as Childline posters and NSPCC leaflets.

Prevent — We can reduce the risks and stop problems arising by following the Safer Recruitment Policy and other guidance around safe working practices.

Protect — We need to be alert to the particular needs of those vulnerable to abuse such as children, the elderly and those with disabilities, and act to protect them from harm, by making referrals to professionals.

Respond — If someone discloses abuse, or if someone who poses a risk attends church services we need to know how to respond appropriately to keep everyone at church safe, using the safeguarding policy.

Q: How can we safely involve people with autism or other disabilities in worship and church activities?

A: Some Church of England resources were included in the recent "Connect" Magazine, and if you go to the Diocesan Website and search "Disability" you will find the resource pack under From Access to Belonging, along with many other useful documents.

There are also many resources online, depending on what type of disability someone has. Please contact us if you want some links, or if you are concerned about the welfare of a person with a disability.



Parish Audit:

Earlier this year, we sent out a safeguarding audit to 20 randomly selected parishes. We had responses from 15 and apologies from the rest due to vacancies in clergy or safeguarding roles.

The 10 question audit, asking about policies, training and resources for safeguarding in the parish showed that most places have a plan in place to keep their church community safe, which was very reassuring. Thank you to all those of you that took part, we appreciate your involvement. We will be sending out the audit again next year.

And finally: The Diocesan Safeguarding Group, Chaired by Ted Allen who was featured in our January Newsletter, is seeking a parish safeguarding person to join the group, to help us to ensure that we always maintain a parish focus when discussing policy, strategy, the overview of safeguarding in the Diocese, and how we should manage cases of concern.

This is a volunteer role, although mileage to and from Wells for the quarterly meetings will be paid. Meetings are usually held at the Old Deanery on a weekday afternoon and last about 2 hours.

If you are interested in applying for this role, or finding out more, please get in touch so that we can discuss it with you. The closing date for applications is 7 September.

The Safeguarding Team

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More information and resources on our website:
www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/

