
Safeguarding News

July 2016

Safer Recruitment

For some while now we have been promising new policies and parish practice guidance for safeguarding; and I'm pleased to say that we now have the first of them up on the website. On our Safe Recruitment page, we have added a localised version of the new Church of England Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance.

This replaces the previous Safe Recruitment Policy and takes you step-by-step through all the stages of recruiting someone into a role in the parish, from deciding you need the role, through applications, interview, references, deciding whether they need a DBS check, and then to appointment. The Practice Guidance includes all of

the forms you need to complete at each stage, such as the application form and the letters to ask people for references.

We are now waiting for the accompanying Safer Recruitment training packs which should hopefully be coming out at the end of the summer. At present we deliver a local training, but the new packs will enable us to deliver the National Church of England "S1" module, which will be standardised across all Diocese in England

We also hope to move onto the Electronic DBS system after the summer, and will roll out separate training for that before you have to sign up to it.



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Healthwatch

We were asked at training recently if there was a way that carers or pastoral visitors could complain anonymously about the care someone was receiving in a health setting such as a care home or hospital. We know that many people are afraid to complain in case the elderly or sick person is then bullied or held to blame in some way. Healthwatch allows you to leave feedback about a service, without the service provider being told your details. You can also see what other people are saying. Healthwatch then alert the Commissioners (the people who manage the money and services for the NHS) to problems that don't seem to be getting resolved, and if services don't improve it may result in an investigation to see what is going wrong. Find out more about Healthwatch at: <http://healthwatchsomerset.co.uk/>

Working in Partnership

Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) have recently launched their new “**Thinking it? Report It!**” campaign to encourage people to report concerns about elder abuse. They recognise that many elderly or disabled people may be unable to find a safe time away from an abusive carer to report the abuse themselves – so the SSAB ask others with suspicions to alert the safeguarding teams. They also understand that abuse isn't always physical, or intentional: it could be that the carer can no longer cope and needs some extra help; or even that there is no carer and someone is just not managing on their own, and is becoming malnourished or is having falls.

Some kinds of abuse however are deliberate, such as financial abuse from doorstep, postal or telephone scams, which often target older people living alone. Devon & Somerset Trading Standards has produced a short online training session which will help you to recognise these scams and understand what you can do to protect yourself and others from them.

You can find out more about all of these issues, and a great deal more information about helping to protect vulnerable adults from abuse in the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board newsletter here: <http://ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SSAB-Newsletter-Issue-3-Jul-2016.pdf>



Safeguarding Training - 2016

It is now mandatory for all clergy, including Permission to Officiate clergy, and readers, to attend safeguarding training at least once every 3 years. We are also encouraging anyone needing a DBS for their role—such as all children's group helpers, music leaders with children, those who organise activities for adults who may be vulnerable, and those who provide pastoral visits to those who struggle to get to church, to attend training.

Remaining training days this year include:

Wednesday 3 August – St Nicholas Lighthouse, Portishead – This is a full day with the C1 Introduction to Safeguarding in the morning and the S1 Safer Recruitment in the afternoon. There are only a few spaces left on this date.

Thursday 27 October – Mission Church, Street. This is a full day with the C1 Introduction to Safeguarding in the morning and the S1 Safer Recruitment in the afternoon.

Please phone or email Helen to book a place.

Other dates may become available during the year, which will be advertised on our website or in local churches. These will be run by our Authorised Training Volunteers.

Other Training Dates

Clergy new to the Diocese will be contacted soon about a specific one day training course in October.

Train the Trainer: Have you had lots of safeguarding and training/teaching experience? Would you like to deliver safeguarding training in your parish and nearby? Book in to come on this 3 hour course on Tuesday 11 October.

Electronic DBS: Learn to use the new system for applying for DBS checks online. Saves time and postage! Book in to come on this 3 hour course on Tuesday 15 November.



Becoming a Lay Pastoral Assistant

Lay Pastoral Assistants carry out an important role in supporting people who may be vulnerable through bereavement, who may find it hard to come to church due to illness or disability, or who are struggling with family concerns.

It's therefore critically important that they are Safely Recruited to ensure they are the right people for the role. Follow the steps here:

www.bathandwells.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/LPA-Waterwheel-Sept-14.pdf



And finally: In the last newsletter, we mentioned the Audit that is happening in September. We believe we are prepared with all the information the auditors will need. However, they would also like to hear from the parishes, and will be holding a parish focus group on the evening of Wednesday 7 September, here in Wells. We already have 4 volunteers, and are allowed a maximum of 10, so if you would be interested in contributing to the discussion about Safeguarding in the Diocese, please contact Glenys to book in to join the group.

We would like to congratulate Bishop Peter (Bath and Wells) on his appointment as the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding for the Church of England. More information on the Church of England site here: www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/07/parish-role-in-safeguarding-vital,-says-cofe-lead-bishop.aspx

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

