

SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING

Summer 2019/1

SIGN UP TO OUR TRAINING HERE

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Diocese of Truro's Safeguarding Briefing. You are receiving this in your role as priest-in-charge, safeguarding co-ordinator, safeguarding trainer or PCC secretary.

This briefing contains up-to-date guidance, information, dates, and events and provides you with the opportunity to ask questions and share best practice.

There have been some occasions where emails and letters have not been received. In order to resolve this, the team will be issuing all diocese-wide information via this mailing. The briefing will have an edition number, so that you can tell if you have missed one.

The full briefing will be issued every three months; with ad-hoc editions being distributed as necessary (eg for urgent information).

Please feel free to share this briefing with members of your PCC; can you also ensure that if your priest-in-charge, safeguarding co-ordinator, safeguarding trainer or PCC secretary does not have access to email that they receive a copy.

This briefing will be relevant and informative for you. If you have anything that you wish to share and/or questions that you would like answers to, please send them via email to safeguarding@truro.anglican.org

Best wishes from the safeguarding team - Sarah, Mandy, Sue & Rosey

NSPCC NATIONAL HELPLINE HAS BEEN SET UP

As part of the Church of England's commitment to responding well to survivors of abuse, and in preparation for Past Cases Review 2, a dedicated telephone helpline - 0800 80 20 20 - operated independently from the church by the NSPCC, has been set up.

Anyone can use the helpline to provide information or to raise concerns regarding abuse within the Church of England context; whether they are reporting issues relating to children or adults, or seeking to whistle-blow about

poor safeguarding practice. The helpline is available now so please pass this information onto anyone who may benefit from it. The diocesan safeguarding team will be looking at how to publicise the helpline further and will update the diocesan website accordingly.

Individuals can of course still make direct contact with their Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor Sarah Acraman via email at sarah.acraman@truro.anglican.org

TRAINING & EVENTS

TRAINING

There are nine safeguarding training events across the diocese over the next three months; click on the link above to book a place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 27, 2019: Diocese of Truro's Safeguarding Sunday: The aim is to provide an opportunity for you to raise awareness of safeguarding and the work that is being undertaken to make your church a safer place. Resources will be from thirty:one eight, (published September).

November 23, 2019: Safeguarding Co-ordinators celebration: We will be hosting an event at St Petroc's Church in Bodmin to publicly acknowledge and thank safeguarding co-ordinators for the hard work they do across our parishes. More information and invitations will follow in due course.

INFORMATION & LINKS

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a partnership board that is responsible for protecting adults from abuse, reducing the risk of abuse, and supporting people to stop abuse where it happens. As part of that partnership working, Fiona Field, chair of SAB has become a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP). The SAB produces a quarterly newsletter which you can read [here](#).

GUIDANCE & INFORMATION

The diocesan website contains national and local safeguarding resources for parishes and is updated on a regular basis. The following is a summary of new/ revised guidance.

How to record and report a safeguarding concern

Feedback from churchwardens is that 90% have dealt with a safeguarding concern in the past year. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook contains guidance on how to respond to concerns; including what to record and how to report. It is important that the right information is recorded to support both the parish and the diocese to make the right decisions to protect the person at risk.

The handbook contains a **model parish recording template**, which it is considered best practice to use

in all cases. The template must be used when reporting to the diocesan safeguarding advisor, as it contains the information required for case management and reporting to external bodies.

In order to assist you in completing the template the diocese has created **additional guidance** as to what information is required.

Safeguarding information should be securely stored, as outlined in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, and retained indefinitely.

Responsibilities for PCCs

When asked what further training or support churchwardens would appreciate, 25% asked for more information about safeguarding.

The safeguarding team presented an overview of the responsibilities of Parochial Church Councils at the recent diocesan training organised for churchwardens, and have created an information leaflet for PCC members which can be found on the diocesan **website**.

Following a number of queries the diocesan safeguarding team have clarified in the guidance that it is diocesan policy that all churchwardens and at least two other members of the PCC are DBS checked.

Serious Incident Reporting

In December 2018 the Diocesan Secretary Esther Pollard circulated the Charity Commission guidance on both safeguarding and non-safeguarding serious incident reporting.

After receiving a number of queries and concerns, the Charity Commission published a frequently asked questions document, which is now available on the parish resources **website**. The diocesan safeguarding team would recommend that you read this document as it acts as a useful summary and clarification of the changes and our responsibilities.

With regard to the reporting of serious safeguarding incidents, it is now expected that Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors and Diocesan Secretaries will report to the Charity Commission. It should be noted that this procedure does

not take away the responsibility of reporting from the PCC (see parish resources **website** for guidance and templates).

Members of the safeguarding team have reviewed the guidance and looked at how we can simplify reporting and reduce duplication. The guidance, which can be found on our **website**, explains the diocesan reporting arrangements and a checklist for parishes to use when recording safeguarding concerns. This checklist, when used alongside the model parish recording template, avoids the need for parishes to complete two forms.

In addition, we would draw your attention to the following revision to the guidance, which took effect on August 1, 2019:

When should a safeguarding serious incident in a partner entity be reported?

There is an expectation that the PCC will have oversight of, and is managing incidents that affect operations, finances, people or reputation, which includes the consequences and risks which result from incidents that take place in partner organisations. The guidance has been updated to reflect that if a safeguarding incident has occurred in our partner organisations that materially affects the PCC then it should be reported. (see section 5 of the guidance for PCCs). The safeguarding checklist has been amended to reflect this revision.

It should be noted that this is also a requirement of non-safeguarding serious incident reporting, which is the responsibility of the PCC. PCC secretaries can find the revised guidance on the parish resources **website**.



NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Safeguarding Sunday in Redruth

All five churches of the Redruth Team Ministry chose to mark Safeguarding Sunday in July, coinciding as it did with the lectionary gospel reading *The Good Samaritan*, and using the excellent leaflet produced by the team at Church House.

Revd Caspar Bush from Redruth Team Ministry said: "This formed part of our ongoing efforts to help all members of our congregations understand that safeguarding is SO much more than protecting children and other vulnerable people from those who would do them harm.

"In each church the sermon was replaced by an interactive approach, starting by putting ourselves not in the place of the



Good Samaritan, but as the injured person, and imagining how it feels to be vulnerable.

"Some people volunteered examples of when they themselves had been in vulnerable situations, and we

talked about what is most helpful for victims in those situations. We spoke too about how we might react in situations when someone is in any need or danger, when to help them and when that might mean putting ourselves at risk.

"We all agreed that whatever the situation, whether or not we are able to intervene ourselves, the golden rule of all safeguarding is that if something seems not right we should tell someone, sharing the situation with someone we trust."

The Diocesan Safeguarding Sunday takes place in October (see Training & Events on page 1). The safeguarding team hopes that all churches will take part in marking this day.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Safeguarding Summit

The annual National Safeguarding Summit in October will focus on how dioceses improve engagement with, and responses to, victims and survivors of church-related abuse. See the next edition for feedback.

Supplementary guidance

Promoting a safer environment and culture - supplementary guidance to the Parish Safeguarding Handbook that will detail 'how to...' to help churches in their everyday activities and ministry will be published in the autumn. Some of the Diocese of Truro safeguarding co-ordinators are feeding into the consultation.

Past Cases Review 2

The guidance for the Church of England's Past Case's Review 2 (PCR2) were published on August 1, 2019. This is a significant piece of work and the diocesan safeguarding team will provide further information following consultation with the Bishop's Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel.



FAQs

A full list of Frequently Asked Questions and answers can be found on the diocesan [website](#).

The following are some of the questions the diocesan safeguarding team has recently answered:

When should I complete a Confidential Declaration Form, who keeps it and how long for?

Who on the PCC should have a DBS check?

Can we use Dropbox to safely store information?

Can I use the DBS update service?

If you have a question and you cannot find the answer in the FAQs, please contact the safeguarding team who will be able to assist you.