

Safeguarding Update

Diocese of Truro

This report provides Truro Diocesan Synod with an annual update on safeguarding in the diocese.

Created on: 23 October 2019
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INTRODUCTION

In 2013, General Synod voted to support the tightening of safeguarding procedures across the Church. This was following the Chichester Commissaries' safeguarding report into historic sexual abuse of children committed and known about by various church officers, some of whom were very senior. The CofE has been, and continues to be, independently scrutinised in order to gain a clear picture of how safeguarding is being managed in the dioceses.

Role of the diocesan safeguarding team

The diocesan safeguarding team supports people in parishes in keeping themselves and others safe. The key activities of the team are:

- Providing safeguarding advice and support;
- Managing serious cases;
- Delivering safeguarding training;
- Providing safer recruitment support;
- Ensuring compliance to safeguarding legislation and practice guidance;
- Quality assurance and external scrutiny of safeguarding practice.

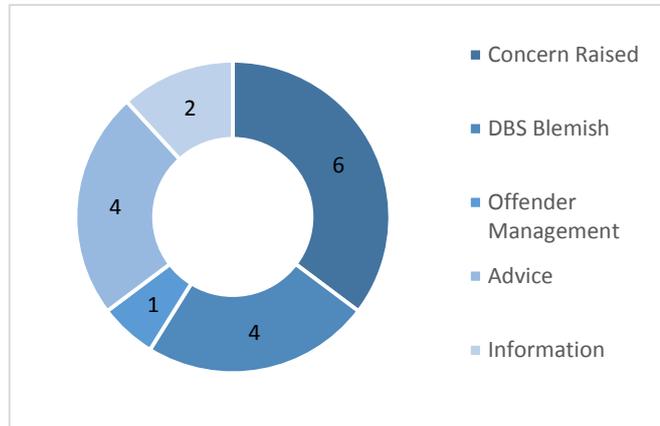
Key areas of focus in 2019

- **Making our churches as safe as we can** - raising awareness of the importance of safeguarding and working with parishes to safeguard our communities, employees and volunteers;
- **Policy and guidance** - the need to support parishes with simplified guidance and standardised templates;
- **Safer recruitment** - improving local procedures; moving the focus away from DBS checks and ensuring compliance with all safer recruitment practice (e.g. role profiles and references);
- **Training** - continuing to make sure that our training is relevant to parishes; ensuring that everyone attends.

Managing concerns and cases

At the end of September there were **39 concerns / cases** open to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, with about a third of them being active on a regular (monthly or more frequent) basis.

In the first nine months of 2019 there have been **17 new concerns / cases** reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, an increase on 2018 when there were 10 cases for the whole year.



In order to safeguard children, young people and/or vulnerable adults, and provide support to our employees and volunteers, we currently have **13 safeguarding agreements** in place with church officers across the diocese.

Raising awareness of safeguarding



Our first **theological resource** 'Loving God & Our Neighbours: Why safeguarding is important for Christians' was launched at diocesan synod in May. The theology resource was used as an exercise for synod attendees. They worked in small groups to address the questions, which resulted in some useful discussion and challenges to one another around safeguarding and theology. The logo used for the theological resources will continue to be used for future resources and services.

As part of a review of our safeguarding presence on the diocesan website, we launched an ['I am worried about what to do'](#) section. It covers seven topics and was viewed 378 times in the three months after the pages became available.

The diocese supported **Safeguarding Sunday** in October 2019 and parishes were signposted to the various resources available.

POLICY AND GUIDANCE

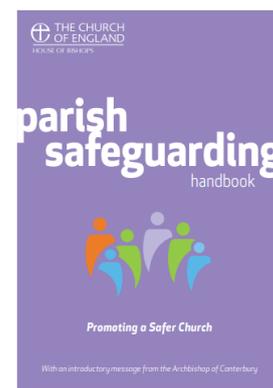
The **Parish Safeguarding Handbook** was launched in March 2019. Local (diocesan) guidance was developed in conjunction with a small group of parish safeguarding co-ordinators.

Guidance about how and when to report **serious safeguarding incidents** was developed, following the introduction of new requirements from the Charities Commission.

We developed guidance for **PCC members** on their safeguarding responsibilities and supported the diocesan training day for new churchwardens.

We launched our new **Safeguarding Briefings** aimed at keeping priests-in-charge, safeguarding co-ordinators, safeguarding trainers, churchwardens and PCC secretaries up to date with guidance, information, dates and events.

We analysed the responses to the safeguarding questions in the **Archdeacons' Visitations and Articles of Enquiry**. In summary 97.9% of parishes that responded confirmed they were aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. When asked what was going well the majority of comments related to the **parish safeguarding coordinators** and the work that they do. In addition to supporting our parish safeguarding coordinators with guidance and training we have twice yearly meetings where we update on current issues and share best practice.



SAFER RECRUITMENT

All our volunteers, no matter what role they undertake, represent the church. Safer recruitment is about making our churches safer and seeks to protect our volunteers and employees as well as children and vulnerable adults.

Building on the work undertaken at November synod we have strengthened our [safer recruitment guidance](#); in particular we have focused on providing links to information about which roles do and don't require a DBS check and detailed guidance on the DBS process (all of which can be found on our website).

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

While DBS checks are an important component of safer recruitment, it should be fully recognised that they only assist where individuals have some form of record.

The diocese undertook **321 DBS checks** in the first nine months of 2019, which is comparable with the same period last year when (347). Nearly one third of checks are for children's workers, which include youth and Open the Book workers.

Four DBS checks have resulted in a 'blemished' return, which require a risk assessment by the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

In the first nine months of this year there have been four cases which have had to be followed up as the DBS has expired. This is a significant improvement on the same period last year, when there were 11.

TRAINING

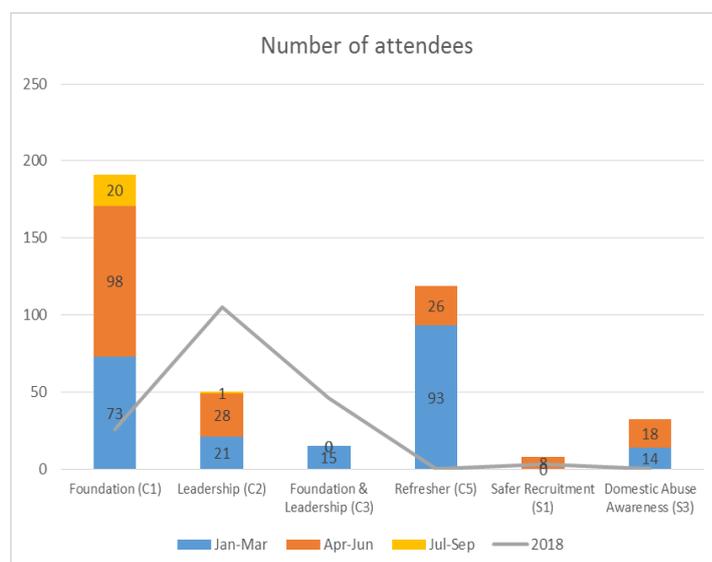
The target in our **2019 Training Programme** was to deliver 58 ‘core modules’ and a number of ‘specialist’ modules across the diocese during 2019.

	Number
<i>Core</i>	
Foundation (C1)	20
Leadership (C2)	16
Foundation & Leadership (C3)	8
Refresher (C5)	14
<i>Specialist</i>	
Safer Recruitment (S1)	n/a
Domestic Abuse Awareness (S5)	n/a
	58

In the first nine months of 2019 there were 818 people who have undertaken **safeguarding training** (including 314 who completed online training). See below for more information.

Face to face delivery

We have **delivered 40 courses** in the first nine months of 2019 and there are an additional eight courses to be delivered in the final quarter. At the end of 2019 we will have delivered just over twice as many courses as 2018 (21).



There were **504 attendees** at our training courses, which is significantly more than the same period last year (330).

Foundation and Refresher training continues to be the most well attended however we have seen a reduction in the number of people attending these courses - as would be expected following the introduction of the stand-alone Refresher training this year.

In order to provide greater access to the **domestic abuse awareness training**, it is now being offered

immediately after the Refresher training. Since we implemented this change we have run two courses attended by 32 people.

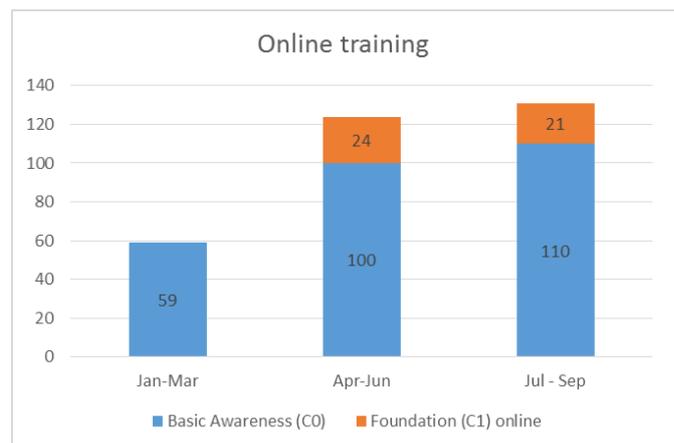
We continue to promote **safer recruitment** training however only nine people have attended courses so far this year, as opposed to 16 in 2018. We have three more courses to run this year. Attendance has been a national issue, resulting in making the course online. Truro Diocese will make the online course available in the New Year.

Online Training

In addition to the above current face-to-face courses, there are two courses that are available online.

The number of people who have completed the basic awareness (C0) online module course in the first nine months of 2019 is **269**, compared to 258 for the same period last year.

Although the diocese does not promote taking the foundation (C1) module online, as it is part of our in-person training programme, the online module was relaunched in the second quarter of this year and so far **45** people have completed it.



Some reflections from trainees this year

“we should try to foster a more open approach within the church family”

“a good balance of speaker input, video clips and discussion”

“a very good course which reinforced and expanded previous knowledge”

“good session. Lively debate between church members at different levels”

“I feel the area of spiritual abuse needs more open exploration in Church”

“I’m going to ask Tl’s to introduce safeguarding reflections in their supervisions”

“Thought provoking”

“Modern Slavery and County Lines is new to me. Very interesting”

“can we make this annual, as improvements keep happening?”

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

Our journey to supporting people in our parishes in keeping themselves and others safe as well as managing the area of safeguarding has been challenging, but we have made some considerable headway. We continue to deliver our key activities and support parishes to improve safeguarding practice. This could not be achieved without the generosity and hard work of our volunteers in the parishes.

The biggest challenge facing the team is the capacity to deliver safeguarding initiatives, while ensuring that we focus on responding to and managing safeguarding concerns, and delivering the national training programme.

In addition to finalising our Safeguarding Strategy and implementing national guidance there are three key areas of work that will impact on parishes in 2020. Namely -

1. Delivery and implementation of the revisions to the **national training framework** by April 2020. Key changes include the removal of Core Safeguarding Modules C3 (Clergy and Lay Ministers) C5 (Refresher training); amendments to the scope of specialist modules (e.g. safer recruitment), the introduction of new modules (e.g. spiritual abuse) and revisions to all training course material and resources.
2. We anticipate that **Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2)** will take place between January and June 2020. At the completion of the review diocese and parishes will be able to state that all known safeguarding cases have been appropriately managed and reported to the statutory agencies / police; that the needs of known victims have been considered and support offered, where appropriate, and that all identified risks have been assessed and mitigated as far as is reasonably possible.
3. In the latter half of 2020 we plan to develop the use of **Parish Dashboards**, which aim to make life simpler for Parish Safeguarding Coordinators (simplifying safeguarding administration and developing a Parish Action Plan at the click of a button) and for the diocesan safeguarding team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (monitoring and supporting parish compliance throughout the diocese).

Watch out for more information about the above in our Safeguarding Briefing notes.