

SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING



DIOCESE OF TRURO

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

April 2020/5

[SIGN UP FOR SAFEGUARDING TRAINING HERE](#)

Welcome to the 5th Safeguarding briefing note. Please contact safeguarding@truro.anglican.org for more information or assistance.

A NOTE FROM SARAH ACRAMAN, DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISOR

We are imagining that many parishes are continuing to provide a service to the most vulnerable through these difficult times. In large part, that will now be remotely through such channels as telephone, mailings and internet-based communications. We are also aware that one or two are involved in face-to-face work (being the coordinating hub for the community or Foodbank activities). Also many have responded to the call to work jointly with, or for, other organisations to meet pastoral need.

It is clear that risks will be different for different people now, and that signs of abuse might be harder to detect, so here are a few pointers and reminders to help us all keep our safeguarding standards high:

- Find new ways to enable people to disclose. Be alert to signs that someone might be asking for help.
- Domestic abuse is predicted to rise significantly. Please share the message that the police will respond to calls of this nature and will arrest where necessary. Also, that refuges remain open to those seeking a place of safety are able to. <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>
- Alcohol use is predicted to rise. Alcohol is a disinhibitor, so violence and arguments in households are likely to rise too. Financial stresses could add to this.
- Children who experienced school as a safe place away from home troubles are now locked into their potentially unsafe family homes. Is there a well-advertised outlet for them digitally through their school? Could you provide IT equipment for a child without access?
- Unhappy children are at risk of exploitation through social networking/apps/gaming etc., and so will now be more at risk if alone in bedrooms for hours at a time. Share across your networks the Think U Know link here <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- Those with a sexual interest in children are likely to be driven to focus online, thus compounding the issues further. Make sure you familiarise yourselves with the help pages on our [website](#) for getting help if you think you may have unwanted/dangerous or unhealthy thoughts about children, and make the community aware of the pages.
- Clarify whose safeguarding policy you are working to. If you are working on behalf of another organisation, familiarise yourself with their policy.

We hope the above is helpful, but we need to know from you what help and support is now required, so do let us know.

GUIDANCE

SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND GUIDANCE DURING COVID-19

The National Safeguarding Team have outlined some brief safeguarding advice and FAQs which can be found on their [website](#). Safeguarding policies and guidance remain in place and we will keep you informed, via this briefing and our website, of any interim changes.

- [DBS](#) - Interim guidance issued March 2020,
- [Training](#) - Interim guidance issued March 2020
- [Serious Incident Reporting](#) - Charity Commission advise that reporting should continue as normal

SAFEGUARDING INFO FOR APCMs

As you will be aware parishes have an extension of time until the end of October to hold their APCMs with current office-holders remaining in post. In light of this:

- **Annual Safeguarding Policy Review & Safeguarding Report** should be deferred until the APCM meeting. However, PCCs should consider how they can reassure themselves that safeguarding measures are in place in the interim, e.g. what issues may arise from Covid-19
- **DBS checks** should continue (Churchwarden and at least 2 other members of PCC). This means that if a PCC member's DBS is due to expire before October it must be renewed. If you were able to nominate your PCC members before lockdown, then the DBS check should continue to be processed.
- **Notification of Parish Safeguarding officers** - advise us if there are any changes. In October we will look to do a full audit to ensure our records are up to date.

SAFER RECRUITMENT - CONFIDENTIAL DECLARATION FORM

As you will be aware, if a role is eligible for a DBS check then the applicant should complete a confidential declaration form at the initial 'recruitment' stage and this should be retained by the recruiter until such time as the DBS process is completed. It should then be destroyed. In order to comply with the General Data Protection Guidelines, the Church of England has recently revised the confidential declaration form and this new form should now be used instead of the 31:8 form. Your DBS Recruiter should have a copy of the form or it can be found [here](#).

DUTY TO "HAVE DUE REGARD" TO SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE

Following a recommendation from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) the Legal Office of the National Church Institutions has prepared an explanatory note which is available on the Church of England [website](#) or via [direct link](#).

Note that legal advice is that if you are unable to complete your safeguarding training due to the Covid19 virus, this does constitute as a 'cogent' reason - providing the reason is recorded and you attend the training as soon as possible when it is available. If this applies to you, please contact mandy.wells@truro.anglican.org for advice.

RECORD KEEPING

A number of parishes have fed back that when they completed the PCR2 return it was made more difficult by inconsistent record keeping. As identified in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, all parishes should use the [Model Parish Safeguarding Template](#) to inform the diocesan safeguarding advisor of any concerns or allegations. Effective immediately, we will be asking all parishes to use this form. This will enable us to improve record keeping at both a parish and a diocesan level. Additional guidance on how to complete the form, in particular what information the Charity Commission will look for, can be found on the diocesan [website](#) (Parish Safeguarding Recording Checklist and Parish Safeguarding - Diocesan guidelines)

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES & LINKS

The **Clewer Initiative**, which campaigns to raise awareness of modern slavery, identify victims and to help provide victim support and care, has a number of free resources available for local churches on its [website](#)

Remote teaching: safeguarding children and young people - NSPCC Learning has published a [webpage](#) with resources to help schools keep children and young people safe while teaching in a remote or unusual setting. Topics covered include: consent; contacting children at home; child protection concerns; online safety; and mental health and wellbeing.

NSPCC Learning has also updated its content on [how to have difficult conversations with children](#) to include information about talking to children about coronavirus. The content covers: preparing for a conversation, having a conversation and support from Childline.

Childline has created a new [webpage](#) with information for children and young people about coronavirus. The page includes information about: what coronavirus is; where children and young people can find help if they are worried; coping if they are staying at home; and what to do if they are feeling unwell.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT LINKS

We have found the following links to information about what is available locally to support communities, which you may find useful,

- [St Austell Community Support](#)
- [Redruth Town useful numbers](#) (Facebook link)
- [Make Camborne Safe Again useful numbers](#) (Facebook link)

Please inform us if you have information for your local area so we can increase the coverage of support.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Safeguarding online training- if you are having problems accessing the online training portal for your basic and foundation safeguarding training, please email the national safeguarding team training helpdesk on elarning@safeguardingtraining.cofeports.l.org.

There is lots of good safeguarding training that you can do online. If you have time to spare due to lockdown here are some courses that you can do in the comfort of your own home.

Clewer online safeguarding and modern slavery - accessed via the Church of England [training portal](#) (under additional resources).

[Suicide - let's talk](#) - suicide prevention skills.

FAQs

How often are DBS and Safeguarding Training renewed?
DBS checks are renewed every 5 years, whereas safeguarding training is every 3 years.