

# SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING NOTE

Summer 2020/6

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*Welcome!*

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Diocese of Truro's Safeguarding Briefing Note. Please contact [safeguarding@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@truro.anglican.org) for more information or assistance.

## PRESSURES AT HOME: HELP IS AVAILABLE

People within the Church of England are all too aware of the realities of domestic abuse within our communities, and behind many closed doors in Christian households too.

The Rt Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells, said in 2017: "The Church remains committed to those who have been survivors/victims of domestic abuse and to addressing the processes that lead to domestic abuse. Domestic abuse in all its forms is contrary to the will of God and an affront to human dignity. All need to play their part in preventing or halting it."

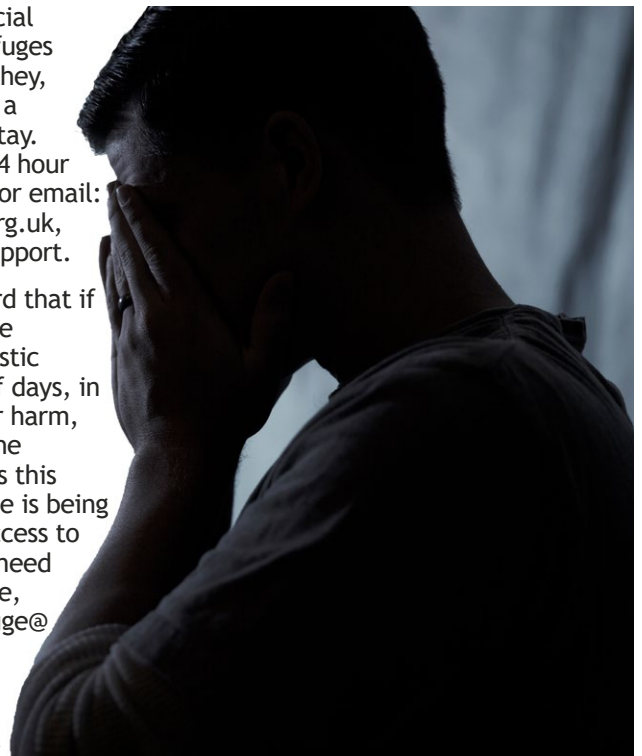
The Church of England's Responding Well to Domestic Abuse can be found [here](#).

Sadly, with the restrictions on people's movements at the moment, and the resultant difficult living arrangements for some, we are hearing from the police and specialist agencies that domestic abuse incidents have risen significantly across the country. The extent has been such that the Government was persuaded to promote a national domestic abuse helpline ([Online link](#) or tel: 0808 2000 247). The police are keen to spread the message that they will respond to domestic abuse calls

for help regardless of social distancing measures. Refuges are keen to clarify that they, too, remain open should a person need a place to stay. Cornwall Refuge Trust (24 hour helpline: 01872 225629) or email: [saferfutures@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:saferfutures@firstlight.org.uk), tel: 0300 777 4777 for support.

You might also have heard that if a person needs to remove themselves from a domestic situation for a number of days, in order to avoid conflict or harm, government advice for the pandemic accommodates this too. Often when someone is being coercively controlled, access to money is limited. If you need to escape domestic abuse, you can email: [railtorefuge@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:railtorefuge@womensaid.org.uk) to get a free train ride on any network to anywhere in the country.

Devon and Cornwall Police are reporting an increase of almost 100 calls to them in April related to domestic abuse, compared to last year. You might imagine that the diocesan safeguarding team would have also seen an increase in queries about domestic abuse - anecdotally, some dioceses have - but that is not the case. We don't know why this is, but sadly we do know that there will



be incidents of domestic abuse taking place within our church communities.

A group called Broken Rites made contact with the diocese recently, and informed us of its services for anyone who is suffering or has suffered within a marriage or partnership with a member of the clergy. Broken Rites can be found [here](#).

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## PRESSURES AT HOME: HELP IS AVAILABLE DURING CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

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It was of course inevitable that some families or partnerships would be put under significant pressure by the rules aimed at keeping us all safe. Coping mechanisms such as space, distractions, friends, work, and family, were stripped away and many additional worries about money, jobs, health, and children's education, were added, and would be too much for some to cope with. That will have led to some people increasing their consumption of alcohol, all of which will have added

to the burden on people's mental health. Of course, children can also find living in such circumstances a struggle. Concerns for children should be dealt with in line with our safeguarding procedures. The YEW Project offers support to 11- to 17-year-old girls (tel: 01208 77099) at risk from sexual violence or domestic abuse.

Please continue with what you are doing in your parishes. We hear of great and inventive approaches to issues, and kind selflessness as you go about your own 'lockdown' lives.

Continue to bear in mind that not everyone will be doing ok, even if they say that they are. Keep your ears open to the possibility that someone is not ok, and try to make the contact details and resources contained in this article as widely available as you can, but if you know anyone who is at immediate risk of harm, please call the police now on 999.

You can also follow Safer Cornwall on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to help spread information about the support that's available.

# SAFER RECRUITMENT & DBS: ARE YOU MAKING THE BEST USE OF 31:8?

## DBS CHECKS

We all know that at the best of times, it can sometimes take a while for some applicants to produce documentation for their DBS Check. With the temporary changes the DBS has made, to allow scans of documents to be viewed (the originals must still be seen before they start work), it does present an ideal opportunity for you to get on top of renewing checks that are due in the coming months. This will allow applications to be submitted while many people remain at home, and some of us have a bit more free time than usual.

## RENEWAL DATE REPORT

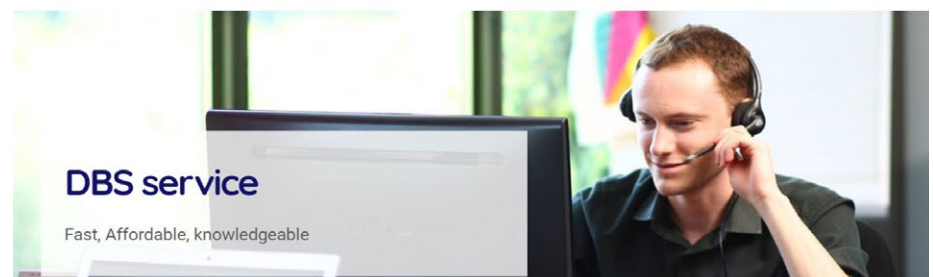
There is a 2 minute video tutorial that covers creating reports (spreadsheets) as well as a range of other important steps in the DBS process, viewable on the 31:8 [website](#). If you want to identify when DBS's are due to be renewed you can create a report, by following these simple steps.

From the dashboard navigate to Reports, then click the blue 'Custom Report' button in the top right of the webpage.

In the top section of this page, it is possible to select the desired date range, remembering to tick the 'search archived' box if looking for



DISCLOSURE UPDATE: We are reviewing our service offering and procedures in line with latest guidance. Read our update [here](#).



any applications completed more than 180 days ago.

Once the dates are set the Recruiter can then select the column headings to be included in the report by ticking any of the below boxes. If Recruiters wish to know the renewal date, this box should be ticked and the report will display the date 5 years from the certificate issue date.

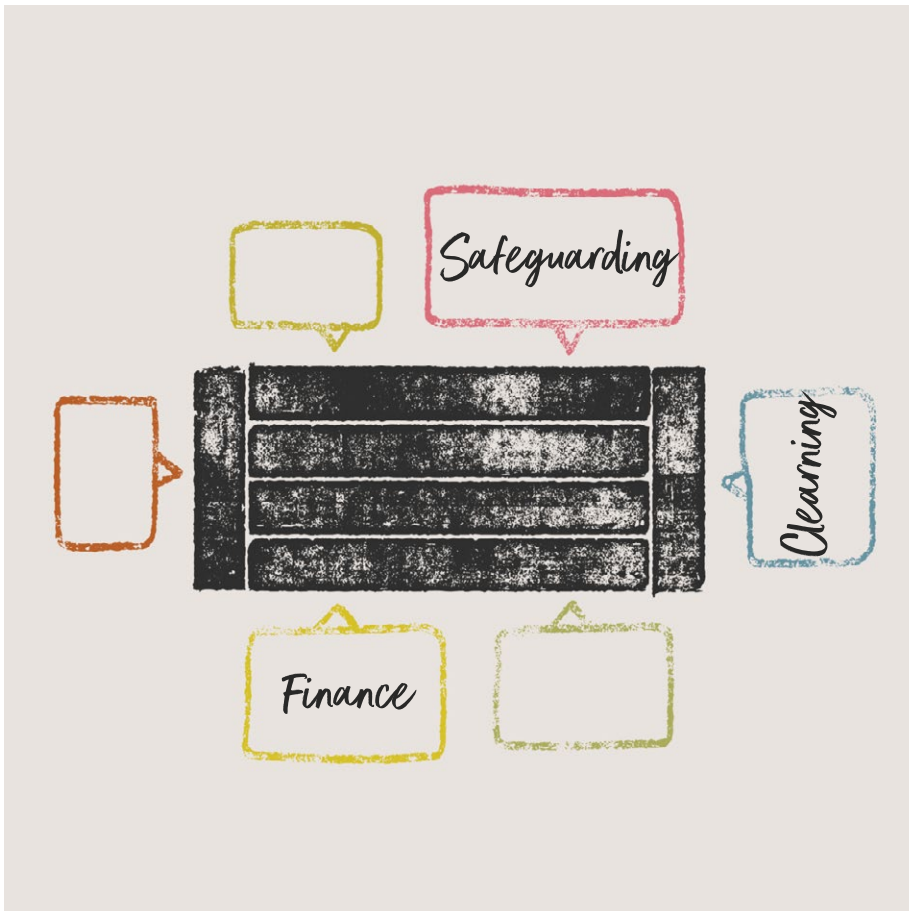
Once the desired boxes have been selected, press 'go' and the report will appear at the bottom of the screen. If at any point the Recruiter wishes to change the column headings different boxes can be ticked, pressing go will then refresh the report.

Once the Recruiter is happy with the column headings the report can be downloaded to excel or PDF format.

## DBS WEBINARS

Following the success of the recent webinar on Online DBS Checks and Eligibility, 31:8 has arranged some more dates. The dates and booking arrangements can be found [here](#). You do not need an account to be created, and it can be accessed through the Google Chrome/Edge browsers or by using the Microsoft Teams App.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**  
Coming soon! More information will be available on our [website](#). Book early to avoid disappointment.



# PCC MEETINGS: TALKING ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

The Parish Safeguarding Handbook states that PCCs should, in addition to the annual safeguarding report at the APCM, have safeguarding as a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. The agenda item is an opportunity to report on good practice, new ideas and resources and to consider sticking points and worries about safeguarding practice. Examples of what might be considered are -

- Changes in policy and guidance as relevant
- A focus on one of the Parish Roles and Responsibilities from the Parish Safeguarding Handbook- e.g. safer recruitment - have we got the appropriate arrangements in place, does everyone understand, could we do better?
- A focus on key areas of abuse

- this could be taken from the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and/or the I am worried section of the website) - e.g. domestic abuse - do we understand what it means, do we think there are issues in our parish, what can we do?

The agenda item should also include, on a regular basis (defined as a minimum of twice a year) a safeguarding 'report'. Individual cases cannot be discussed in an open forum where people can be identified; so the report should focus on safeguarding activities, for example:-

- How many concerns have we had recently - was there any learning from them (e.g. we didn't know how to respond)?
- DBS and Safeguarding Training - are we up to date, who needs to do it?

## SAFEGUARDING CRISIS HUB

If you are looking to get the most up to date advice and guidance on safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk during the coronavirus pandemic, SAFEcic (Safer Activities for Everyone community interest company) has developed a crisis hub with resources to help voluntary sector organisations stay on top of safeguarding. [Link](#)

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Online training sessions for safeguarding leadership (C2) will be available via Zoom from July 2020. Dates will be published once the content has been received from the national church.

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL REVIEW

The diocese has produced a summary of key activity by all of us in 2019, it is intended as an accompaniment to the more detailed Annual Report and Accounts and to give people in parishes a greater understand of what we do and what the impact is. The review is available on our website via the following [link](#).

## COVID KEY SUPPORT LINKS

Cornwall Council has published a document (attached to this briefing note) of key links to support for people that need help with staying healthy and independent during the pandemic.

## DBS ID CHECKS

As our churches are now starting to open again we would like to remind you that if you used scanned images for your DBS check over the last few months you should have presented the original version of your document to your parish DBS recruiter. If you have not already done this please remember to do so when you first attend your role. We will be in touch with any Clergy, PtO and Readers shortly about what arrangements we are making for you to present your documents.