

SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING NOTE

Autumn 2021/8

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Welcome!

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Diocese of Truro's Safeguarding Briefing Note. Please contact safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org for more information or assistance.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY: GET INVOLVED

Safeguarding Sunday takes place on October 10 and churches are being urged to get involved.

The Church of England is supporting Safeguarding Sunday and a short sermon for use on the day has been provided by Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop.

"Whether churches can give just a few minutes or dedicate their whole service, Safeguarding Sunday is a really helpful and important way of focusing on all the work that goes on 365 days a year in our churches to make them safe places.

"From our children's and young people's activities to clubs for the elderly and foodbanks, our churches are involved in every community.

Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message."

"Safeguarding Sunday is all about creating an opportunity for churches to show their communities that they take this responsibility seriously," said Bishop Jonathan.

We are aware that a number of parishes are already supporting Safeguarding Sunday and would like to encourage all of our parishes to join in; it may be an opportunity to celebrate the work of your Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The specialist safeguarding charity thirtyone:eight provides bespoke resources including films and animations, prayers, preaching notes, children's activity sheets, hymns and songs and a safeguarding pledge. You can register and access them [here](#).

A NEW APPROACH: HOUSE OF BISHOPS SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE

The Church of England have developed a new approach to safeguarding guidance with the launch of an **e-manual**. In future all new and revised guidance will identify requirements (the minimum standard 'must do's), good practice advice (why the requirements must be met and how to meet them) and toolkits (resources and templates).

Existing guidance can still be found in the policy section of the Church of England [website](#). As and when safeguarding guidance is introduced or updated it will be moved to the e-manual.

ENDING DOMESTIC ABUSE: A PACK FOR CHURCHES

Restored aim to "Equip the Church to stand against domestic abuse and Support Survivors" and their [website](#) contains guidance, toolkits and support.

Research conducted by Restored has shown that one in four churchgoers have experienced abuse in a present relationship. They have created a **Church Pack** which is designed to empower churches around the world to engage with the challenges of domestic abuse, to root it out, to support survivors and to teach a better way.

If your church is currently supporting someone through domestic abuse, or if you have concerns about domestic abuse in your parish, the diocese has obtained a few copies of the pack, please contact safeguardingqueries@cornwall.gov.uk. Unfortunately this supply is very limited; however you can purchase the pack for your parish by clicking on the Church Pack link above.



SAFER RECRUITMENT & PEOPLE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Church of England's safeguarding policy statement 'Promoting a Safer Church' outlines the Church's commitment to promoting a safe environment and culture across all Church bodies for children and vulnerable adults.

The reality is that many people who have abused or will abuse in positions of trust do not have a criminal record.

The Safer Recruitment Practice guidance (2016) has been revised to clarify safer recruitment / appointment processes and ensure continued vigilance once someone is in role. Safer Recruitment and People Management goes beyond simply obtaining a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Certificate.

The revised Safer Recruitment and People Management Policy (SRPM) is applicable to all PCCs and must be implemented by January 4, 2022.

Whilst the only significant change to the requirements is to revise the DBS frequency from five years to three years (more information to follow) it is recognised that PCCs are at different stages in implementing the current policy.

From January 2022 all responsible people (i.e. accountable for the recruitment and appointment and/or support of staff or volunteers) must be familiar with the SRPM policy, have themselves been safely recruited and be up-to-date with their safeguarding training (which includes the SRPM online course).

The SRPM course provides a sound understanding of safer recruitment principles and goes through each stage

of the SRPM guidance.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE REVISED GUIDANCE?

Parish resources are being developed over the next couple of months and the **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs) are being regularly updated. In order to keep you informed we will be issuing regular safeguarding briefings.

By the end of December each PCC should have read the SRPM policy (available in the **Safeguarding e-manual**) and used the **self-assessment toolkit** to identify what actions may be required to implement the policy and when they will be completed.

The SRPM course is available now via the CofE **portal**, parishes may find it useful to undertake this training now in order to familiarise themselves with the SRPM policy.

If you have any queries about the policy please email us at safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org in the first instance.

SAVE THE DATE

We are running short online briefing and Q&A drop-in sessions for PCC members, Parish Safeguarding Officers, and clergy on **Tuesday, November 16**, 6pm - 7.30pm and **Thursday, November 18**, 10am - 11.30am. More details to follow.

SUPPORT WITH YOUR SAFEGUARDING DBS & TRAINING RECORDS

In December 2020 we began reviewing the records of roles within the remit of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance and those roles requiring licencing or commissioning, to ensure that DBS and all safeguarding training is up-to-date. Our focus since that time has been to upgrade our contact management system, ensuring all Clergy, Readers and PtO are compliant with their DBS and safeguarding training and provide managers with the tools to monitor renewal dates.

While **Local Pastoral Ministers** (LPMs) and **Local Worship Leaders** (LWLs) fall within the remit of the PCC they cannot be recommissioned if their DBS (if required) and safeguarding training is out-of-date. The Safeguarding team are working with the Discipleship team on how best to support parishes in ensuring that LPMs and LWLs are compliant with their safeguarding requirements.

The first phase of this is to review the records and arrange for DBS renewals (for LPMs) and/or safeguarding training. We are hoping that our list of LPMs and LWLs is up-to-date, however we may need to contact you to make sure we are not missing anyone.

It will take some time to get everyone up-to-date; after which time we will be in touch about how we can maintain compliance.

It is vital that everyone who is responsible for working with children, young people or vulnerable adults on behalf of the church is 'compliant' and has completed their DBS and safeguarding training.

We asked you to check your records for all **parish volunteers** and **officers** to ensure they are fully up-to-date with DBS and training. One of the key requirements of the Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management policy is that all volunteers and officers are up-to-date and that parish record keeping is in place.

A number of parishes have asked for a tool or template to aide with record keeping and we are pleased to confirm that this will shortly be available.

