

# SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING NOTE

February 2022/11

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the 11th edition of the Diocese of Truro's Safeguarding Briefing Note. Please contact [safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org) for more information or assistance.

If you need to raise a safeguarding concern with the safeguarding team please email your concern to [safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org) using the standard referral form (**model parish recording template**) on the C of E website.

If you are concerned there is an immediate risk of harm to an individual you should contact the MARU 0300 1231 116 or Police 101 or 999.

Further information and archived copies of the safeguarding briefing notes can be found on our [website](#).

## SAFEGUARDING IN A PARISH

**Jim Seth**, Chaplain to Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers) writes about the deep joy of tackling the Safeguarding dashboard and preparing for a team council meeting to agree the latest missive and regulations from the national safeguarding team on safer recruiting which has to be done by January 4.

Since then I have had the meeting and was pleased that there was so much positivity across four of the five churches with a commitment to training and responding to my bit of the agenda. The fifth church is a small congregation with little energy to spare who need support from the rest of us - which I think is a scenario being played out in places across the diocese.

Trying to do everything to the letter of the law/ regulations/ guidance is not always possible, practical or feasible but finding a pragmatic approach to safeguarding and safer recruitment that follows the spirit of the task is possible.

We have five churches, which is five DCCs and three PCCs - but the most practical way to deal with safeguarding and recruitment is through the Team Council that represents everyone even though it is not the statutory body. The PPCs can have their say if they want to at the meeting following the team council - although I do not envisage any issues arising!

Each of the churches, in theory has its own safeguarding officer although one is so small and beleaguered that their poster refers folk to me as safeguarding coordinator for the Benefice or to one of the leads in the other churches.

## REPORTING A SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT

So you have used the 4Rs:

**R**ecognise something is wrong  
**R**espond appropriately  
**R**ecord fact not opinion  
**R**efer

But how does one refer a safeguarding incident?

You should be using the **Model Parish Recording Template** for your own safeguarding records.

This is the same information that the safeguarding team will need to advise and support you.

The template should be emailed to [safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org) and a member of the safeguarding team will be in touch.

If you would like an initial discussion please do not hesitate to contact us via telephone, via church house, or via [safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org).

# ERADICATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Building on the work of The Mother's Union highlighted by Bishop Hugh at Diocesan Synod in November, the Safeguarding Team continue to acknowledge that violence against women and girls is an unacceptable reality in Cornwall and Isles of Silly today.

Violence against women and girls sadly will be an experience some encounter within the church family too, and we must be prepared to take action where we find it, and work to make churches safe spaces for all. Read more about the Mothers Union campaign [here](#).

At Church House in our diocese we have been busy developing our Domestic Abuse policy in support of Church House staff. The policy was launched in January 2022.

Additionally, Sarah Acraman, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, attended a multi-agency conference in November 2021 hosted by Cornwall IOS Safeguarding Adults Board, titled Domestic Abuse and Older People.

Please note that domestic abuse is defined by the Home Office 2015 as:

*“any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial control and emotional abuse.”*

Family members includes mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or stepfamily.

Anyone can experience domestic abuse: it can happen in all kinds of relationships, regardless of age, race, sex, sexuality, disability, wealth, gender identity and lifestyle.

Dr Hannah Bows (Criminal Law Professor at Durham University) focussed at the conference on the experiences of women, and highlighted a globally under recorded issue. Nationally she found that those over 59 are not captured within domestic violence statistics. These women are essentially invisible but represent 25% of domestic homicides and an estimated 2 million women over 60 years of age living in



the community, experience domestic violence.

Dr Bows (a link to her work can be found [here](#)) went on to explain that alongside the issues with effective recording, when these women are known, services are then letting these women down too. Domestic abuse risk assessment tools fail to capture the specific circumstances of and risks to older women, and refuges are not geared up well for the needs of people with age related frailties for example. Older women are not seen as sexual and so are not considered as possible sexual violence victims. Abuse against older people is commonly termed 'elder abuse' and as such slips into a system not designed to provide the specialist support required to victims of domestic abuse. All that coupled with the sense of blame, stigma fears and shame many women report, alongside the lack of encouraging messaging and information that is relatable to them, it is no wonder that these women are silent or unheard. The odds have been heavily stacked against them for decades, and many have learnt to live within that reality.

The encouraging news for us is that the conference was very well attended, and there was a commitment made to bring these issues to the fore across many agencies and thus finally improving services for older women.

The demographic in our Churches means that we should prepare ourselves for the probability that we will come across older women who need our help and support, in much the same way that we might recognise domestic abuse in the younger population. We need to feed in to this new realisation and help with an improved service for older women across the diocese.

Look out for the new (National Training Framework) course on Domestic Abuse, which is now available on the [CofE portal](#).

If you do have concerns about anyone's safety, then please get in touch as usual.

## RESOURCES

[Safer Futures /First Light](#) for advice and support regarding domestic abuse or sexual violence (men, women or children)

[Women's Centre Cornwall](#) for women specific support on a wide range of issues

Rape and Domestic Abuse helpline  
-01208 77099

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) - [First Light](#) helpline 0300 7774777

# SAFER RECRUITMENT & PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Following the implementation of the SRPM guidance on January 4, 2022 we held two additional drop in sessions where parishes could ask questions and share best practice. We will continue to update you on progress via the briefing notes and drop in sessions.

## WHY IS SRPM IMPORTANT?

A short video, which features people on the ground talking in their own words about their experiences with SRPM, why it's important to them and how they have gone about it, together with a survivor's perspective is now available on the Church of England [website](#).

## SUMMARY OF THE KEY POINTS

SRPM **must be** used for those roles that involve substantial contact with children and/or vulnerable adults. It is good practice to follow the principles for all roles.

You are not expected to know the whole document – understand the **must do's** (blue boxes) and use the good practice and templates when you need to.

If you are involved in recruitment you **must do** SRPM online training (which is also a good way to understand the guidance).

You are not expected to have everything in place straight away – the self-assessment toolkit OR the parish safeguarding dashboard are good tools to help you prioritise what needs to be done.

You should be keeping DBS and safeguarding training records and ensuring that your staff and volunteers are up to date.

## PCC MEMBERS – WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

House of Bishop's guidance is that PCC Members should all have done Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training and some should have a DBS check (based on their role).

Best practice is that PCC Members should complete Basic Awareness AND Foundation training, to be renewed every three years.

With regards to DBS – diocesan advice is in line with the Charity Commission guidance. We expect that all PCCs would be open to working with children and/or vulnerable adults and therefore should follow the Charity Commission guidance and ALL PCC Members should therefore have an Enhanced (without barred list) check.

## HOW DO WE MOVE DBS RENEWALS FROM EVERY FIVE YEARS TO EVERY THREE YEARS?

We have until January 2024 to implement the changes. Having consulted with parishes and managers about the simplest way to do this the diocese will be adopting a phased approach.

Any DBSs that were issued after November 2021 are for three years and any that are due to be renewed in 2022 and 2023 will automatically be for three years.

Any DBSs that are due for renewal after January 2024 which were issued for five years (i.e. issued between 2019 and Oct 2021), will be renewed in 2023.

The diocese will update those roles that are licensed or commissioned by the Bishop (e.g. Clergy, PtO, Readers, LPMs).

Parishes are responsible for all other roles in the PCC that have a DBS. As the diocese does not have access to this information we will write to you in June 2023 and ask for the details of all those who are due for renewal after January 2024.

The diocese will then arrange for your DBS's to be processed before the end of 2023.

We will remind everyone of the above changes nearer the time.

## RESOURCES

You can find additional information on the diocesan [website](#). Recent changes include: FAQ's updated; example role profiles, example spreadsheet for DBS and training record keeping and an example volunteer agreement.

## PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS TRAINING

We are delighted to be able to offer Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) training starting this month. This three hour course is particularly aimed at new PSOs but existing or longstanding PSOs are also welcome. New PSOs should attend a training session before six months of being in the role.

The course will provide some useful templates and allow an action plan to be built for the parish to improve the safeguarding culture and to inform parishes of their responsibilities. Useful templates of forms and who to contact for support will be provided.

The dates can be found and booked onto using this [link](#). Please scroll down to PSO training.

PSOs are part of the wider Diocesan Safeguarding Team, who are based at Church House. We are here to advise and support you in your role. Do not hesitate to contact us if you need help or information [safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org)

## COMING SOON

- **Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel** – February 2022
- **Responding Well to Victims & Survivors** – April 2022
- **Safeguarding children and young adults policy** – April 2022
- **PCR2 recommendations published** – May 2022
- **Safeguarding Sunday** – October 2022

**THIS NEWSLETTER ...**  
Please share this briefing with others including your PCC, priest, safeguarding officer or PCC secretary