

Safeguarding Report 12th November 2024

There are no safeguarding incidents to report.

The Safeguarding Action Plan has been updated and now falls in two categories – Mandatory Requirements and Safeguarding Standards, the current report is attached, and the following actions points need to be addressed to bring us more up to date. Please don't be alarmed as just by discussing at the PCC and adding the date will update us to green on some points, however there are one to two actions that do need more work.

Actions Points from Mandatory Requirements –

1. Which safeguarding policy has the PCC approved?

As a PCC we are happy to continue to follow 'Promoting a Safer Church' and accept the Policy statement attached.

If yes new statement to be signed and dated by the Rector. After the meeting a signed copy will be given to each church to display on notice boards.

2. This action plan needs to be accepted by the PCC as being the current situation.
3. Responding to Concerns and Allegations – are the PCC happy that the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is aware that concerns and allegations are reported within 24 hours.

I can confirm as PSO I am aware of the need for this.

Two new questions have been raised as a PCC these both need to be confirmed, these questions need to be reviewed at least once every two years. The Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding appropriate boundaries are found in [Safer Environment and Activities](#). From which the following statements are taken.

4. Is the PCC complying with the Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding lone working with children or vulnerable adults?

As PSO I can confirm that we do adhere to the following

'Lone working' from a safeguarding perspective includes:

- An adult being on their own with one or more children (under 18). This might occur before, during or after a church activity (e.g. giving lifts home).
- An adult being on their own with one or more vulnerable adults (e.g. during home visits).

- The online equivalent of the above situations (e.g. a one-to-one online chat or direct messaging).
5. Is the PCC complying with the Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding appropriate boundaries with children or vulnerable adults?

The core of safeguarding relies on an understanding of the dynamics of power and vulnerability in relationships. Within this context, appropriate boundaries may include:

- Interaction between people (especially if one person has a position of responsibility). This might be face-to-face or online.
 - Acceptable touch (e.g. sharing the Peace, or hugs by the Welcome Team).
 - Confidentiality.
6. Under support for victims and survivors the question has been asked as follows and needs to be reviewed at least one every two years – I can confirm I am aware of Note 1.

Are the Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC aware of the requirements set out in NOTE 1 below?

NOTE 1

Section 2 of the Church of England's [Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse](#) states that:

“Following a disclosure, the Church Body where the abuse took place or is alleged to have taken place must take such reasonable steps as it is permitted by law to provide the support set out in the “Summary of the Church’s Support Offer for Victims and Survivors” table in Section 3 of this Guidance. This applies even if the victim or survivor lives in a different area or is no longer connected with the relevant church.”

However, it also goes on to say that the PCC will be considered to have complied with this requirement if the incumbent, priest-in-charge or Parish Safeguarding Officer (or the person to whom the disclosure was made, as appropriate) makes a written request to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor that they work with the church to co-ordinate this support.

The remainder of [Section 2](#) and [Section 3](#) contain further information about the support that is to be offered.

7. Training for Key Roles

Have all PCC members completed, within the past 3 years, the required safeguarding training? (See notes below)

As PSO I can confirm this is still outstanding. This was raised at the July meeting and the same people are still outstanding. To allow grace new reminders have been sent out to those who have not completed the training. Those affected will need to be suspended from

role if it is not adhered to, this may cause problems within LCG and or the PCC but as this is an ongoing problem this now needs to be addressed and any fall out from the person being suspended will need to be accepted. This is part of the Pastrow Framework Document and the diocese requirements are clearly laid out in annex J.

8. Information for Victims and Survivors.

The question has been asked as follows with the notes that follows, please see note 2.

As PSO I propose we are aware of this and will await further instructions from the national church and record this as such.

This is to be reviewed at least once every two years.

NOTE 1

Section 1 of the Church of England's [Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse](#) states that:

“Church Bodies must provide clear and accessible information about:

- *How victims and survivors can report abuse within the Church.*
- *The support available to disclosers immediately after their disclosure and how they will be assisted during and after the investigation.*
- *The processes that will be followed when abuse (or risk of abuse) is disclosed and what will happen to the personal information of people about whom abuse is disclosed.*
- *How allegations of abuse are reported to statutory services.*
- *How victims and survivors can contact statutory services if they believe that they have been abused or are at risk of being abused.*
- *Contact details for national services for victims and survivors – for example: [Stop It Now](#), [Samaritans](#), [NSPCC](#), [MACSAS](#) [Survivors Voices](#) – and local charities such as [Survivors' Network](#).*

This information must be disseminated in a variety of methods relevant to that Church Body and those who encounter it through its activities, in order to meet different needs.

Information on safeguarding must be translated into the main languages commonly spoken by regular worshippers so that people who do not use English as their first language can understand it.

Church Bodies must also provide clear, jargon-free messages of support to victims and survivors of abuse.”

NOTE 2

More work needs to be done at the national/diocesan level to support churches with this requirement. Therefore, at this stage, the dashboard is simply seeking to raise awareness.

9. Church and non-church activities are being reviewed and will be updated accordingly, once all information is received by PSO.

With the change in the Dashboard, we now have action points from Safeguarding Standards as follows, however notes from the Church of England site says the following –

Safeguarding standards

In October 2023, the Church of England published the [National Safeguarding Standards and Quality Assurance Framework](#), which asks all parishes to assess their safeguarding work against five standards:

- Standard 1 - Culture, Leadership and Capacity
- Standard 2 - Prevention
- Standard 3 - Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk
- Standard 4 - Victims and Survivors
- Standard 5 - Learning, Supervision and Support










Page 4 of this Framework says:

*"Quality assurance activity needs to be planned over a **three-year period** as no organisation can gather all the information it might need all the time, nor in one go. For example, each year two standards could be chosen to review and explore in depth".*

The upgraded dashboard clearly shows the progress that has already been made towards the National Safeguarding Standards.

Our Current Safeguarding Standards position – screen grabs of the various sections are as follows with actions below which will help us move forward to a better position, although further work will be needed.

Culture, Leadership and Capacity - 60%		
75	Culture 75% progress	>
0	Leadership 0% progress	>
Prevention - 41%		
14	Recruitment and People Management 14% progress	>
88	Messaging 88% progress	>
0	Activities - Procedures 0% progress	>
40	Activities - Church 40% progress	>
44	Activities - Non-Church 44% progress	>
0	Buildings 0% progress	>

Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk - 100%		
	Recognising Risk 100% progress	>
	Information Management 100% progress	>
	Risk Assessments 100% progress	>
Victims and Survivors - 0%		
	Engagement 0% progress	>
	Disclosure 0% progress	>
	Support 0% progress	>
Learning, Supervision and Support - 41%		
	Safeguarding Learning - Key Roles 75% progress	>
	Safeguarding Learning - Church Activities 29% progress	>
	Supervision and Support for Safeguarding Roles 0% progress	>

Action points which will need to be followed up over the following months.

Culture, leadership and capacity.

- a. **Has the PCC discussed how they can better promote a healthy and safe church culture?**

Worksheet IA is attached so that we can answer the questions.

- b. **Has the PCC discussed how to encourage those in leadership roles to better promote the welfare of vulnerable groups**

Worksheet IB is attached so that we can answer the questions.

Prevention

These are all actions and need to be looked at by the Ministry Team.

Victims and Survivors

Engagement – if question 7 above is answered this then covers this section.

Disclosure – A worksheet needs to be completed by the SGO and Rector and reported back to the PCC to cover this action.

Support – question asked - **Are the Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC aware of the requirements set out in NOTE 1 below?**

This is to be reviewed at least once every two years.

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The remainder of [Section 2](#) and [Section 3](#) contain further information about the support that is to be offered.

As PSO I am aware of this and the support of the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor is always available.

Learning, supervision and Support.

Safeguarding Learning – key roles, this will be covered by number 6 above.

Safeguarding Learning – Church Activities – a fully list of who is involved has been asked for and will be updated accordingly.

Supervision and support for safeguarding roles – Worksheet 5A needs to be discussed.

Judith Appleby

6/11/24