



Diocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement

The safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk is an important part of all Church activities. Our Safeguarding Policy demonstrates and guides all within the Diocese of Exeter on the part that they play in safeguarding across the whole Church community. The Diocese of Exeter [*i.e. the Diocesan Bishop, the Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Board of Finance, whose clergy and lay membership is drawn from parishes and deaneries throughout Devon*] is therefore whole-heartedly committed to the wellbeing and protection of all those who are vulnerable or at risk of abuse.

The Diocese of Exeter commends this commitment and its safeguarding policy to parishes and, mindful of their legal responsibilities, encourages them in the strongest possible terms to adopt and proactively implement an appropriate parochial safeguarding policy as informed by national and diocesan guidance.

The Diocese of Exeter adopts and endorses the principal safeguarding policies of the Church of England: 'Protecting All God's Children' (4th ed., 2010) and 'Promoting a Safe Church' (2006). Synod is also committed to the implementation of the policies and guidance contained in 'Responding well to those who have been sexually abused' (2011) and 'Responding to Domestic Abuse; guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility' (2006). It is further committed to safer recruitment for posts relating to children and other vulnerable people as set out in the joint Church of England and Methodist 'Safer Recruitment Policy' (2013).

The Diocese of Exeter will also monitor national developments, whether through updated policy and guidance or through reports from elsewhere in the country (such as the Commissaries Report into Safeguarding in the Diocese of Chichester) and undertakes to follow relevant emerging requirements and recommendations in a timely and fulsome manner.

(Policy Statement adopted by Diocesan Synod on 17 May 2014)

Diocesan Safeguarding Commitment

The Diocese of Exeter is committed to safeguarding vulnerable people throughout the diocese and whole-heartedly endorses the commitment to safeguarding as described in the 'Joint Statement of Safeguarding Principles for the Church of England and Methodist Church of Britain'¹ We are therefore committed to:

- the care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry for all: children, young people and adults.
- the safeguarding and protection of children, young people and all adults.
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

¹ Issued within the Safer Recruitment Policy for the Church of England and Methodist Church of Britain, 2013. This statement has been adapted from the previous statement of principles issued within the 'House of Bishops Policy for Safeguarding Children' in 2010 to encompass adults at risk of abuse.



Safeguarding Children & Young People

The safeguarding of children and young people is an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. This safeguarding children and young people policy sits together with the safeguarding adults' policy. This policy represents therefore the Diocese of Exeter's commitment to safeguarding children and young people and reflects our policy statement and commitment. The Diocese believes that the welfare of the child is paramount and that all children should be protected from harm or abuse. To do so we will work in partnership with children, parents, carers and other agencies to promote and safeguard the welfare of our children.

What do we mean by 'Children and Young People'?

In this document, as in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, a child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. 'Children' therefore means 'children and young people', and these terms are often used interchangeably.

Safeguarding Adults

'Promoting a Safe Church' (2006) seeks to raise the awareness of members of the Church of England of the needs of adults both within society in general and more particularly within the church community. It should be read in conjunction with the Church of England documents 'Protecting all God's Children' (2004) and 'Responding to Domestic Abuse – guidance for those with pastoral responsibilities' (2006). Society is recognising that people are being harmed when they are vulnerable for various reasons whether permanently or on a temporary basis and this abuse can take place in their own homes, in residential care, at work or in other activities including those provided by the Church. Some adults, who do not see themselves as 'vulnerable' under our working definition, may still find themselves exploited, bullied or abused. The safeguarding of adults when harm occurs is the responsibility of everyone. Awareness of the ways people can suffer harm encourages church members to be vigilant both within and outside the church community.

There is a particular responsibility for members of the Church to ensure that all people are treated with respect and that any complaints against church workers are dealt with promptly and fairly. Safeguarding adults within the Church is based on sound pastoral care and good practice.



Parish Safeguarding Responsibilities (General Checklist)

Each parish (or benefice) should accept the prime duty of care placed upon the incumbent and the parochial church council to ensure the wellbeing of children in their care. In order to meet this responsibility, the PCC on behalf of the parish should:

- Create a culture of ‘informed vigilance’, which takes children and adults at risk seriously.
- Ensure that appropriate health and safety policies and procedures are in place.
- Provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Ensure that current Health and Safety requirements are met for all groups involving children or adults. (Child care providers e.g. pre-school and nursery groups or afterschool clubs should take advice from the Diocesan Children’s & Youth Advisor about the regulations for their activity and the need to register the group with the Local Authority).
- Agree and implement a Parish Safeguarding Policy. This should be compliant with and incorporate the formal adoption of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, which is based on the House of Bishops’ Policy. Explicit consideration should also be given to specific local parish requirements.
- Appoint a Parish Safeguarding Representative, and inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor of this person’s details. (The Parish Safeguarding Representative should be someone without other pastoral responsibility for children or adults in the parish. This person must ensure that any concerns about a child or adult, or the behaviour of an adult towards others, are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the Archdeacon. The Parish Safeguarding Representative post is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check).
- Ensure that appropriate pastoral care is available for those adults who have disclosed that they have been abused as children.
- Provide, as appropriate, support for all parents and families in the congregation, being particularly aware of parents whose children have suffered abuse.
- Ensure that those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
- Appoint a person, who may be different from the Parish Safeguarding Representative, to be a children’s advocate. (This person should be someone whom children know they can talk to about any problems, if they so wish).
- Display the “Childline” telephone number prominently on a notice-board that is accessible to children.
- Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and young people, or in a position of authority, are recruited according to current Safer Recruitment Practice guidelines, and appropriately appointed, trained and supported while in post.
- Provide all personnel authorised by the PCC to work with children with a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and any Good Practice Guidelines.
- Pay particular attention to children with special needs and those from ethnic minorities, to ensure their full integration within the church community, remembering that children with disability or those for whom English is not their first language or are isolated in any way are always more vulnerable to abuse.
- Review the implementation of the Parish Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and any Good Practice Guidelines at least annually, to ensure that the Parish is adhering to the practice laid down within the Policy. (Mission Communities, Rural parishes or parishes held in plurality may wish to join together to implement the Policy and Procedures. It should be noted, however, that people working in isolated situations can be vulnerable and extra care should be taken to



ensure that behavioural guidance and Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and any Good Practice Guidelines are followed).

- Provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities with children and young people that are undertaken in the name of the parish. (Local ecumenical projects should agree which denomination's Child Protection Policy to follow, and this decision should be ratified by the Archdeacon and other appropriate church leaders).

Please note, legally the responsibility for ensuring safeguarding falls to the incumbent and the PCC. This cannot be changed by local arrangement. However, how that responsibility is discharged can vary considerably according to the context. As long as each PCC and incumbent formally records the decisions that it makes, provision, be it for safeguarding representatives, advocates or local safeguarding policies, can be shared between several parishes in the same benefice or mission community. This checklist can therefore apply by extension to more than one parish acting in concert.

Writing a safeguarding policy

Each PCC needs to write and adopt its own Parish Safeguarding Policy. A series of parishes in a benefice or a Mission Community could have a common policy but it would need to be adopted by each PCC and care should be taken to address any differences between parishes as needed. Although legal responsibility rests with the PCC and the incumbent, it is very important that it is available to and 'owned' by the whole church community, since it will take everyone's involvement to implement it effectively. It would therefore be good practice to consult widely in the drafting of the document and to communicate its contents widely once it has been agreed.

As part of that policy, the PCC should adopt the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and the two policies should be in tune with each other. The Parish Safeguarding Policy should then seek to reflect in more detail on the particular circumstances of the parish's common life, setting out local arrangements that are relevant, realistic and genuinely achievable given the resources available. The language of the policy, whenever possible, should be clear and straightforward, so that it can be understood by a wide range of people.



The Beacon Parishes Policy Statement for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The following policy statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on

Ipplepen 18th January 2016

Broadhempston 19th January 2016

Woodland 20th January 2016

Denbury 21st January 2016

'As members of the PCC we commit our church community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable. We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community. We are fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures. We will also act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Services and other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. We welcome staff and volunteers who are recruited in accordance with House of Bishops' Guidelines on Safer Recruitment 2015. This means we will ensure that those who are employed or who volunteer to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are suitable for the role, that they know what the role entails and that they are supported in carrying it out.'



The policy then might be broken down into a series of sections. The order of the sections and the level of detail of their contents will depend on the particular circumstances that apply but most parishes will need to include most, if not all, of the following:

- Information about the groups of people to whom services are being offered, the ways in which they may be vulnerable and what the risks are assessed as being
 - Ipplepen – hosts Messy Church and a monthly Sunday Club; taking into account the presence of a parent/guardian and the fact that there is always a DBS checked adult present in an open layout Church Hall the risk is deemed negligible;
 - Denbury – helps with Messy Church and a monthly Sunday Club; taking into account the presence of a parent/guardian and the fact that there is always a DBS checked adult present in an open layout Church Hall the risk is deemed negligible;
 - Broadhempston – some children attend a monthly service having been confirmed in late 2014 but there is no one-to-one activity and adults are present so the risk is negligible;
 - Woodland – the congregation is elderly but not regarded as ‘vulnerable’; there are no regular children in the congregation.
- Information about how the PCC will recruit, manage / supervise and support staff and volunteers who work with vulnerable people (in accordance with the latest legal requirements and national church guidance)
 - The parishes will recruit, manage/supervise and support staff and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults in accordance with the latest legal requirements and national and local church guidance.
 - A safeguarding training evening was held in November 2015.
- Information about the provision of safeguarding training for staff and volunteers who work with vulnerable people
 - Staff and volunteers will be trained in safeguarding and there will always be one adult with a current DBS check present.
- Information about arrangements for reporting concerns (via national helplines, safeguarding advocates etc)
 - **Safeguarding Notice displayed in churches**

The name of the Mission Community Safeguarding representative (MCSGO) is Mrs. Carol Robinson 01803 812800

Useful numbers

NSPCC	0808 800 5000
Childline	0800 1111
Social Services	
Devon and	
Care Direct	0845 155 1007

- A further more detailed poster will be displayed in vestries and toilet areas:



- **Safeguarding**
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- **Safeguarding contacts**
- Christine Hindle 01392 345909 safeguarding@exeter.anglican.org
- Sarah Miller 01392 345910 safeguarding@exeter.anglican.org
- Phill Parker (DBS) dbs@exeter.anglican.org
- CCPAS (24/7 support - say you are from Exeter Diocese) 0845 120 4550
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- **Concerns about children**
- Devon MASH 0345 155 1071
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- **Concerns about adults**
- Care Direct 0345 155 1007
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- **Domestic Abuse**
- 0345 155 1074
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- **Rape crisis**
- 0808 802 9999
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- **National Contacts**
- National Association of People Abused in Childhood 0808 801 0331
- Care Quality Commission 03000 616161
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
- Childlike 0800 1111
- Silver line 0800 4 70 80 90
- Stop It Now (help for abusers) 0808 1000 900
- Modern Slavery Referral Helpline 0300 303 8151
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- **Internet safety**
- Childnet resources www.childnet-int.org
- UK Safer Internet Centre www.saferinternet.org.uk
- National Crime Agency (CEOP) www.ceop.gov.uk 0870 000 3344
- Internet Watch Foundation (reporting abusive images) www.iwf.org.uk
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- The Mission Community Local Advocate is Ann Holroyd, via the MCSGO or Rector



- Preparation for the reporting of concerns so that people react in an appropriate and timely way. This might involve some scenario planning for situations when, for example,
 - a child/vulnerable adult may disclose something that has upset or harmed them
 - someone else might report something that a child/vulnerable adult has told them, or that they believe that a child/vulnerable adult has been or is being harmed
 - a child/vulnerable adult might show signs of physical injury for which there appears to be no explanation
 - a child/vulnerable adult behaviour may suggest he or she is being abused
 - the behaviour or attitude of someone towards a child/vulnerable adult may cause concern
 - a child demonstrates worrying behaviour towards other children.
- Incidents may be reported to the MCSGO or the Incumbent; where the report concerns the Incumbent a report will be made to the Archdeacon.
- Information about who would need to be contacted (and their contact details) in the event of an incident. Statutory agencies (police and/or children's or adults' services as appropriate) should be contacted as a first priority if there is an immediate risk of continuing harm to a vulnerable person. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser should be contacted as soon as possible in every circumstance and they will help to guide you in deciding who to contact next and how to manage the process. Among the other organisations to be contacted are the following:
 - the parish's insurer
 - Disclosure and Barring Service
 - Charity Commissioners
- The policy would also need to set out the PCC's commitment to co-operate fully with the Diocese and appropriate statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community
- Information about arrangements for the provision of pastoral care to children and vulnerable adults and their families and to any member of the church community against whom an allegation is made.
 - The Incumbent and Hon. Asst. Priests will be primarily responsible for this as appropriate and may involve outside agencies.
- A commitment, in partnership with the Diocese and other agencies, to provide (where it is possible and safe to do so) care and supervision for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.
- Identification of the people within the PCC and the parish who hold formal responsibilities for safeguarding (such as safeguarding representatives, people who are advertised as being safe to report a concern to, etc), with a summary of their responsibilities.
 - Currently Carol Robinson is MCSGO (Mission Community Safeguarding Officer) and the Incumbent acts as safeguarding representative at PCC meetings; in addition Tessa Amies (Reader) has a role in Denbury. Wardens may also be called upon.

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed on an annual basis at a PCC meeting of each parish.