

ISSUE

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Safeguarding Matters

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Welcome to the latest edition of Safeguarding Matters, in which we provide you with details of next years training programme, as well as our 2014 review of safeguarding in the Diocese.

The safeguarding landscape has changed considerably over the last few years, and resulted in the Church of England having to step up its work and resourcing of safeguarding at every level. Undertaking a review of what we have achieved over the last year was a great opportunity for us to reflect upon all the good work that is being undertaken across the Diocese to promote safer working practices in our parishes. However, the figures also demonstrate there is still more to be done in some areas of safeguarding, and highlights the continuing need for ongoing vigilance in the protection of children, young people and vulnerable within the church community.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

DBS News

Please note, that from 1st December 2014, the DBS will no longer accept applications using forms with reference numbers that begin with F00. All applications submitted using these forms will be rejected from this date. The new forms have a reference number that begins with FO1, so if you have old forms in your possession, please destroy them and contact the Safeguarding Office for new stocks.

Over the last year, the number of incorrectly completed DBS applications that we have received from parishes has increased significantly. This causes delays in processing which results in the certificates taking longer to come back from the DBS Office.

Therefore, regrettably, we will have to start returning DBS forms that are not completed correctly to the Identify Validator, if the error cannot be remedied easily. Step-by-step guidance for completing DBS forms is available on our website, which includes information in how to avoid common errors that occur.

www.portsmouth.anglican.org/safeguarding



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Safeguarding practice within the Church of England has changed significantly over the last few years, largely due to a series of national events, as well as revelations of abuse which have come to light within the church community. Accordingly, the response to these events has resulted in the Central Church stepping up its work in safeguarding, and placing additional demands on Dioceses to do the same. In turn, there will be greater expectations upon parishes to ensure their safeguarding arrangements are effective, and the introduction of an audit has recently been proposed to check the quality of safeguarding provision against specific standards.

In conducting this review, we are pleased to provide you with some of the key findings relating to our current safeguarding practice across the Portsmouth Diocese. This evaluation highlights the good progress that is being made in a number of areas, but also acknowledges that safeguarding is not a single issue that can be addressed and sorted, but rather something that is integral to the ministry within the Church, and therefore requires ongoing commitment and support from all church leaders, staff and volunteers.

DBS CHECKS

As at 1st November 2014 the Safeguarding Office had processed 884 DBS checks, the majority of which have come from parishes. Currently, only twelve volunteers have been checked through the Update Service which indicates that many individuals are still unaware of this facility, despite the fact that it can save applicants time in completing forms, particularly if they work or volunteer for various organisations that require them to be DBS checked. (*See Newsletter 11 for further details about the Update Service*).

Of the 884 DBS checks undertaken, less than 1% of the certificates received back from applicants were blemished. This is a reduction from last year, and may be due to the filtering arrangements that came into force last June, that allows certain old and minor convictions to no longer be subject to disclosure.

Of the 612 DBS checks that have been processed for parishes this year, 202 volunteers/ workers have still not been cleared to work by the Safeguarding Team. This equates to nearly a third of individuals who work within the realm of safeguarding, and highlights that basic safer recruitment procedures are not being followed by a number of parishes. In the New Year, reports will be distributed to all parishes whose role holders have not yet sent in their DBS certificates, in order that these individuals can be chased up.

TRAINING

The Safeguarding team remains fully focussed on providing a range of safeguarding training courses to parishes. This year we ran 23 face-to-face training workshops, attended by 308 delegates. Since its introduction, the E-learning programme for Child Protection has been completed by 143 individuals, and 282 people have registered, but not yet completed the course.

Training feedback has been consistently high, despite time management being flagged up as an ongoing issue, and we will be considering how we can improve upon this next year.

Despite relatively good attendance at training across the Diocese, there are still a number of individuals, including Priests-in-Charge and Incumbents, Churchwardens and Parish Safeguarding Representative, who have not accessed specific training, despite it being a mandatory requirement.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Course	Total Number of Sessions	Total Delegates
Policy	10	152
Safer Recruitment	3	30
Managing Offenders	3	18
Other*	7	108
E-Learning—Children	282 Registered	143 Completed
E-Learning—Adults	42 Registered	14 Completed

*Other courses include bespoke safeguarding training for: IME/Clergy Induction, PCC members, Bereavement Visitors, Gap Year Students and Bishops Council members.



GROUP E-LEARNING

Approximately ten parishes, that we are aware of, have run Group e-learning sessions across the Diocese, and we have received some very positive feedback about these from the Safeguarding Representatives who have run these events. One of the delegates commented that she found the course 'extremely worthwhile' as it gave her a better understanding of the subject, particularly with regard to having other colleagues there to discuss issues with. Trainer packs for each e-learning module are available from the Safeguarding Office.

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION



We receive many enquires from parishes on a daily basis, wanting advice on issues ranging from dealing with allegations of abuse, to policies and good working practice. We also endeavour to keep our parishes informed of relevant information and news in our newsletters which are sent out at least three times a year to all Incumbents and Priests-in Charge, Safeguarding Representatives and Churchwardens. As well as our newsletter, we feature lots of information on our website, and we hope to develop this next year, by creating a safeguarding blog or forum where parishes can tell us what they are doing in terms of safeguarding. In this way, we can share good practice, and create better networks, across the Diocese.

REFERRALS AND ALERTS

As well as providing support and information to parishes, dealing with allegations and reports of abuse is a large part of what we do. During 2014, we dealt with 17 cases involving members of the church community, including church workers and volunteers, that required us to work with police and local authorities, on matters ranging from information sharing, to criminal investigations resulting in charges against the individuals concerned. We are also currently managing 22 individuals whose histories suggest they pose a risk within the church community, who are subject to formal codes of conduct, and are supported in liaison with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and identified parish support groups. All of these cases flag up the need for effective parish safeguarding procedures, and ongoing vigilance, as, sadly, there are some individuals who will target churches in order to gain access to the most vulnerable amongst them.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DATES 2015

Training is an important element of our work, in order to ensure that all those who undertake roles within the realm of safeguarding are aware of their responsibilities. Currently the central church is piloting a training programme that it intends to roll out across Dioceses next year, and therefore, we have decided to take this opportunity to review our training in order to ensure that the courses we provide meet central safeguarding obligations, as well as being relevant to the work and ministry of the church.

Consequently, during the next six months, we will be offering fewer courses than normal, after which we hope to introduce our new programme of workshops for staff and volunteers. Until this time, all individuals who are required to undertake safeguarding training as part of their parish role should ensure that they attend and/or complete the following courses.

Policy Training

For: All Clergy (+IME 4-7), All Readers and Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Representatives.

When: Within three months of commencement of role and thereafter every three years. IME During Year 6. Readers – During third year of training

Trainer: Mary Daisy, Safeguarding Policy and Training Adviser

Dates: Thursday 29th January 10.00am—12.00pm Peninsular House, Portsmouth
Friday 20th March 10.00am—12.00pm, Medina Valley Centre, Isle of Wight
Wednesday 1st April 6.30pm—8.30pm, Peninsular House, Portsmouth
Thursday 7th May 2.00pm—4.00pm, Medina Valley Centre, Isle of Wight
Friday 19th June 10.00am—12.00pm Peninsular House, Portsmouth

Basic Awareness E-Learning Programme (Children & Adults)

Intended For: All Clergy, Readers, Children and Family Workers, Pastoral and Home Visitors, Leaders of activities and events for children, young people and adults who may be at risk, Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Drivers for activities involving children and/or adults at risk

When: Within three months of commencement of role and thereafter every three years. For IME 4-7 -in first year of curacy. For Readers – Within three months of selection

Details: Individuals who wish to register to access the on-line training should contact Theresa Winship with their name, parish role and e-mail address.

Managing those who pose a Risk within church

For: All members of Parish Management/Support Groups who are supervising an offender in liaison with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Trainers: Ian Berry, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Jackie Rowlands, Hampshire Police/MAPPA

Please register your interest for this course with Theresa Winship, Safeguarding Administrator at theresa.winship@portsmouth.anglican.org