

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 our latest project, as well as information about key safeguarding developments both within and external to the church.

One of the key aims of our newsletter is to keep you informed of new initiatives and updates in regard to safeguarding practices and we have recently included churchwardens to our distribution list as part of our commitment to sharing good practice with those who have specific duties and responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults in our churches. However, it is also important that parishes help to promote the message that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility' by communicating the newsletter as widely as possible because much of its content is also relevant to those working closely with vulnerable groups.

In the meantime, we would like to thank all of our readers for the work that you do and the support you give in regard to safeguarding, and to assure you that we are always here to advise you about any situation you may face.

Have a great summer!

*From the Diocesan
Safeguarding Team*



DBS Applications

Please could ID Validators ensure they use either A4 or A5 envelopes to send DBS applications to this office. Additionally, applications sent in a A4 envelope should be stamped as a large letter as we have incurred some postal charges recently by the post office and we would like to avoid this happening further if possible.

DBS Certificates

As you are aware, applicants who have applied to work in parish roles that require a DBS check must ensure they send us their disclosure certificates so that we can send out a clearance letter to the church. In order to make this process easier, applicants can also present their certificates to the Parish Safeguarding Representative who can then send them on to us.

We still have a large number of applicants who have not sent in their DBS certificates, and it is the responsibility of the recruiting officer to ensure that a clearance letter has been received by us before the individual starts work.

PARISH REVIEW

Churches have an important role in safeguarding children and adults and supporting families and therefore, just like other organisations, they need to have appropriate arrangements in place to safeguard and promote their welfare.

Recent developments in both the national church and in the wider society have re-emphasised the need to ensure that we continue to deliver our aspirations to be a safer church in the future. As a result, the Church of England is currently taking forward an ambitious programme of new initiatives and developments that promotes this vision including undertaking independent safeguarding audits within several Dioceses across the country and Portsmouth has volunteered to take part in.

In view of the above, we are very keen to identify how well safeguarding arrangements are embedded in church policy, practice and procedures across the Diocese, and therefore the introduction of a parish review is intended to develop and strengthen our approach to safeguarding by getting our churches to think about their safeguarding provision, identify what is working well as well as any areas for improvement.

Parish reviews will also help us to identify good practice which we can share across the Diocese, as well as help us to drive improvements where they may be required. This is not a name or shame exercise, but rather a opportunity to work collaboratively and provide the safeguarding team with key information that we can use to target further support and resources.

Ten parishes have been included in the first sample and these are all preparing for the review by providing us with an initial self-assessment, which will help to identify what activities and events are run in the parish and the current safeguarding arrangements that are in place. The full review process will include an in-depth consideration of leadership and accountability, people and risk and policy and practice, and will incorporate meetings with the parish incumbent/priest in charge, churchwardens, parish safeguarding representative and group leaders.

It is planned to conduct another review of parishes in the Autumn, and churches who are interested in participating in the second stage of the review process should contact the Safeguarding Office.

Review Time



Nobody panic

SAFEGUARDING DEVELOPMENTS

The Care Act 2014

The Care Act came into force on 1st April 2015 and signals a major change to the care and support system in England by putting adult safeguarding on a legal footing, which means that local authorities must make enquiries



if they believe an adult is, or is at risk of, being abused or neglected. The Act also makes it clear that staff and volunteers who have contact with adults who could be at risk of abuse or neglect have a duty to act if they have a concern and, therefore, parishes who are involved in this type of work should ensure their staff have completed the relevant training and know who they should contact if they are worried that an adult is being abused, neglected or exploited.

National Safeguarding Developments in the Church of England



In May a number of pieces of safeguarding policy and practice guidance were presented to the House of Bishops which included Safer Recruiting, Responding to Serious Situations and Risk Assessments. In addition, a national safeguarding learning and development strategy

was presented outlining a number of proposed training modules and who should complete these and information about these developments and other safeguarding news can be found on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Audit

In December 2014, the House of Bishops approved independent audits of Diocesan safeguarding arrangements, and Portsmouth Diocese is one of four Dioceses across the country that has agreed to be part of the pilot process. The independent audit will include interviews with a number of staff across the Diocese, and the auditors are also very keen to speak to members of parishes.



In view of this, we would like to create a parish focus group which comprises of parish clergy, readers, church wardens and laity who are willing to give up a very minimal amount of their time to talk to the independent auditors either face to face or on the telephone. If you are interested in being part of this exercise, please contact Mary Daisy or Theresa Winship on Tel: 02392 899677/655 or e-mail mary.daisy@portsmouth.anglican.org

SAFEGUARDING WEEK

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Board (PSCB) has allocated the week of the **22nd-26th June** as 'Safeguarding Week', and is encouraging all organisations who work with vulnerable groups and



Safeguarding Week

It's Everybody's Business

their families to take part in delivering activities and events during that week. One of the key PSCB priorities is e-safety, and parishes could use this opportunity to promote safe online behaviours with the children and young people they work with, and there are a number of websites that provide useful resources to help children understand on-line risks and how to tackle them.

PSCB campaign to promote safe on-line behaviour among primary aged children
www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/learning-and-schools/learning/beware-of-lurking-trolls.aspx

Advice about parental settings and how they can discuss issues with children
www.internetmatters.org

Websites that help children deal specifically with tackling online anti-social behaviour and bullying
www.beatbullying.org / www.kidscape

Alternatively, parishes may wish to focus on their own safeguarding priorities that are particular to their church and use 'Safeguarding Week' as an opportunity to look at their safeguarding practices, highlight how everyone is responsible for safeguarding and provide information, tips and advice to help vulnerable groups to stay safe.

For ideas and/or resources please contact the Safeguarding Office.