

# Survivor Strategy

## Introduction

Following an Independent Scrutiny Team report led by Sir Roger Singleton in 2018, the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) was commissioned. Every diocese and national church institution was required to complete the review with all cathedrals, parishes, and other Church of England bodies being required to participate. The PCR2 protocol and practice guidance has been approved by the House of Bishops.

The guidance published within the review states that all dioceses and church bodies must have 'due regard' to the guidance when completing their review. This includes providing specific provision for the involvement of victims, survivors and those with a lived experience of abuse.

Along with national legislation the Diocese of Portsmouth is committed to promoting the welfare of children or adults at risk of abuse as having paramount importance. Following the PCR2 review we want to confirm that we are utilising the framework for improvement with all our work related to victims and survivors of abuse.

The Past Cases Review (PCR2) is central to the Church's proactive approach to identifying where abuse allegations have not adequately been managed or regarding decision making that has not focussed on the needs of the victim/survivor at the forefront.

## The six specific objectives of PCR2:

1. To identify all information held within parishes, cathedrals, dioceses or other church bodies, which may contain allegations of abuse or neglect where the alleged perpetrator is a clergy person or other church officer and ensure these cases have been independently reviewed.
2. To ensure all allegations of abuse of children, especially those that have been recorded since the original PCR, have been handled appropriately and proportionately to the level of risk identified and with the paramountcy principle evidenced within decision making.
3. To ensure that recorded incidents or allegations of abuse of an adult (including domestic abuse) have been handled appropriately demonstrating the principles of adult safeguarding.
4. To ensure that the support needs of known survivors have been considered.
5. To ensure that all safeguarding allegations have been referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers and are being/have been responded to in line with current safeguarding practice guidance.

**courageous | collaborative | generous | resourceful | pioneering**

6. To ensure that cases meeting the relevant thresholds have been referred to statutory agencies.

Portsmouth Diocese also identified a local objective and commissioned a comprehensive review that included three further areas:

1. Wider aspects of safeguarding.
2. Review of deceased and archived files in order that the diocese can be assured that every file held has been comprehensively reviewed.
3. To make a record during the file review of all the chaplain roles clergy had undertaken during their ministry in order that there was a record (as far as is possible) on file in the event of any historic allegations.

As an institution, abuse has had a major impact on the church's reputation and trust and the expectation is that every diocese will establish systems and services to gather appropriate agencies together to effectively support victims and survivors and encourage their involvement in the review, whether as contributors or as participants of both the review and development of future services.

Victim Support are part of the Diocese of Portsmouth's independent Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) and are partnering with us as we deliver support to victims and survivors and assist their involvement in our engagement.

Supporting someone who has been abused often requires a specialist, complex and long-term approach with appropriate interventions. Abuse has a significant impact on people's lives, possibly increasing the risk of poor mental and physical health, difficulties in educational and social life and has a lasting impact on relationships.

## Our priorities

As a diocese our duty is towards all victims of every kind of abuse, not only abuse perpetrated by church officers. We have a number of key priorities which will enable us to make our churches safer places:

- To remove the barriers to people disclosing concerns or abuse.
- To respond systematically to all contacts and/or referrals from clergy, staff and parishes promptly and effectively.
- To record concerns and allegations accurately and store information effectively.
- To support people to access appropriate support and signpost to partner agencies.
- To ensure our clergy and church officers attend safeguarding training.
- To focus on responding to and learning from our PCR2 review.

**courageous** | **collaborative** | **generous** | **resourceful** | **pioneering**

First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8HB • 023 9289 9650 • [portsmouth.anglican.org](http://portsmouth.anglican.org) • @CofEPortsmouth

A company limited by guarantee • registered in London No. 226466 • Charity No. 249256



## Accessing Support

The Diocese of Portsmouth supports national guidance, and the following information should be read in conjunction with the Church of England practice guidance [‘Responding Well to those who have been sexually abused’ \(2011\)](#).

We work in partnership with external services that specialise in supporting survivors/victims who have experienced abuse, and who can develop a programme of support and care that is centered around their needs. We also recognise that some people may wish to access support services which are completely independent of those organised by the church.

The Diocese of Portsmouth has commissioned [thirtyone:eight](#) to offer an independent Listening Service to those who have experienced abuse or have been affected by it. Should you wish to access the service, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for further information at email address: [safeguarding@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@portsmouth.anglican.org)

The Church of England’s National Safeguarding Team has now launched Safe Spaces, an independent service supporting survivors of church-related abuse.

This service offers support to survivors of church-related abuse whether or not a report has been made. This independent service is run by the charity Victim Support and funded by the Church of England together with the Catholic Church in England and Wales and the Church in Wales. It is free to access via telephone, email or web-chat.

- Telephone: 0300 303 1056 (Available: Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm; late opening until 7pm on Tuesdays. Answerphone available outside of opening times)
- Email: [safespaces@splitz.org](mailto:safespaces@splitz.org)
- Website: [Safe Spaces website](#)

There may be an additional level of vulnerability for those who have an additional learning need or challenges around communication. There are specialist agencies that help with consultation with young people who have additional needs; Triangle Training in Brighton have some helpful information, training and consultation service – [www.triangle.org.uk](http://www.triangle.org.uk)

‘Triangle is an independent organisation enabling children and young people (up to age 30) to communicate about important things, especially in legal proceedings.

## Historic cases

We recognise that for many survivors it may be many years before they are able to report the abuse that they experienced. Disclosures can be received by our safeguarding team in

**courageous | collaborative | generous | resourceful | pioneering**

First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8HB • 023 9289 9650 • [portsmouth.anglican.org](http://portsmouth.anglican.org) • @CofEPortsmouth

A company limited by guarantee • registered in London No. 226466 • Charity No. 249256



various ways including Self-Referral, Professional Referral or generated via PCR2 case reviews. We also receive disclosures from clergy/church officers, another congregant members, national NSPCC helpline, independent reviews directly to the Diocese Safeguarding Team, or through The Truth Project (The Truth Project see Appendix 3).

We agreed that when gathering information, victims and survivors should not be contacted by the DSA, the Independent Reviewer, police or the local authority without a plan in place to offer them immediate care and support. There should be:

- The type of support should be discussed as to what would best meet their needs.
- Survivors who engaged with the PCR2 process should be assured of support and of anonymity and that any sensitive information shared will be appropriately protected.
- Planned pastoral care available within a church context, if desired.
- Independent support outside of the church and/or care from the church should be made available. Some people may require both pastoral and psychological support and this will be available.

## Joined up support

We know from victims and survivors that they can find it difficult to find support in the short term when they are making disclosures, when investigations are taking place and afterwards. There can be inconsistencies in the quality of care that they receive once they do access services, and sometimes the support has the risk of compounding victims trauma.

The Diocese of Portsmouth have engaged the support of Victim Support and National Association for people abused in childhood (NAPAC) and Safe Spaces, securing specialist knowledge and insight as we work to ensure the needs of all survivors and victims.. These services ensure that joined up support, alongside their families and carers.

## Survivor Engagement

Victims and survivors are at the heart of what we do and we are keen to gather their views to help with service development. We want survivors and victims' to know they are equal partners throughout any service change or design. The Diocese of Portsmouth is currently exploring a Survivor group which could support the diocese. The key areas which we would value input from victims/survivors are around:

- Better identification and support to victims and survivors living in the Portsmouth Diocese and to have a voice in the commissioning of training and other safeguarding services.

**courageous | collaborative | generous | resourceful | pioneering**

First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8HB • 023 9289 9650 • portsmouth.anglican.org • @CofEPortsmouth

A company limited by guarantee • registered in London No. 226466 • Charity No. 249256



- Ensuring that the diocese continues to promote effective ways to report abuse and maintain safer recruitment practices and safeguarding training.
- Ensuring that recommendations from the Independent Reviewers and their feedback are implemented into working practices to ensure quality standards.
- Promote justice for victims/survivors by playing a crucial role in the development of services.

Version 1  
October 2022

## Appendix: reporting a concern

*If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger, or requires immediate attention, call emergency services on 999.*

*Any safeguarding concerns must be reported to your Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and/or Incumbent as soon as possible. If you need to speak to the diocesan safeguarding team please click [here](#).*

*Parish safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at [safeguarding@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@portsmouth.anglican.org) using the form below.*

[Safeguarding Report Form](#)  
[Responding to Safeguarding Concerns Flowchart](#)

### **Out of Hours**

*The Diocese have commissioned [thirtyone:eight](#) to offer OUT OF HOURS AND HOLIDAY COVER when safeguarding staff are unavailable. They can be contacted on 0303 003 1111 during these times. During such times, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team will ensure that information about such arrangements is available to parishes that may need safeguarding advice in their absence. An Information Sharing Agreement between the two organisations will allow for diocesan safeguarding advisers to receive a copy of the advice that thirtyone:eight may offer the parish church/caller to ensure appropriate follow up and support. Please make sure when contacting thirtyone:eight that you inform them that you are calling from the Diocese of Portsmouth.*

**courageous | collaborative | generous | resourceful | pioneering**

First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8HB • 023 9289 9650 • [portsmouth.anglican.org](http://portsmouth.anglican.org) • @CofEPortsmouth

A company limited by guarantee • registered in London No. 226466 • Charity No. 249256

