

March 2022

Safeguarding Policy Summary 2022

INTRODUCTION

The following policy statement has been agreed at the meetings of the Parochial Church Councils of Dartmouth and Dittisham.

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, young people and vulnerable adults.

We welcome staff and volunteers who are recruited in accordance with House of Bishops' Guidelines on Safer Recruitment in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2018. 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.

OUR POLICY

This policy upholds all aspects of the Exeter Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and locally applies to all clergy, parish officers, councillors and volunteers working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults in any way. There are seven main elements to this policy:

- To establish a safe environment so that children, young people, and vulnerable adults can join in church activities happily and securely.
- To ensure safe recruitment of staff and volunteers in line with the Diocesan Guidelines on safer recruitment as recommended by the House of Bishops in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.
- To raise awareness of safeguarding issues in children and vulnerable adults to help equip children, young people and vulnerable adults, staff and volunteers with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- To protect those staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults from misunderstandings or false accusations.

- To learn how to recognise cases of abuse should these arise with the children and vulnerable adults within the church community and to support them if ever it should be necessary.
- To provide a framework for the safe management of known offenders within the church community.
- To offer appropriate support and sensitivity to children and vulnerable adults who have suffered abuse as well as adult survivors of abuse.

CODE OF PRACTICE

The Vicar, the Parish Wardens and the Parish Safeguarding Representatives are jointly responsible for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults who come into the care of the church.

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives accept the responsibility for keeping themselves informed and updated about National and Diocesan policies on safeguarding. They are supported by the Deanery, Archi-Diaconal and Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Training and update sessions are undertaken where applicable and where possible for those responsible for safeguarding.

In the event of any suspicion or allegation of abuse, the Vicar, Parish Wardens and/or the Safeguarding Representatives will know when to seek advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and when it would be necessary to inform other agencies or organisations. The Vicar, the Parish Wardens and/or the Safeguarding Representatives are aware of the Youth and Children's activities within the Church; they know the youth leaders and the types of activity in which young people are engaged.

The Vicar, the Parish Wardens and/or Safeguarding Representatives hold a record of all voluntary workers and aim to ensure that those working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults or in high profile roles within the Church have undergone DBS disclosure checks in line with the House of Bishops and Diocesan Safeguarding policies. This level of DBS disclosure applies to the Clergy, Safeguarding Representatives, Organists, Director of Music and Bell Tower Captains and such others as are seen to have regular responsibilities with the children and vulnerable adults of the parish. Disclosures are also applied as appropriate.

ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Parochial Church Councils, recognising the great value of social activities which involve children, young people, and vulnerable adults, has approved the adoption of the Diocesan and Benefice guidelines for safeguarding. The Parochial Church Councils have approved these basic guidelines to make sure that activities are properly administered:

- Leaders are reminded always to be vigilant and to take such steps as are necessary to avoid putting children, young people, or vulnerable adults at risk of any form of abuse.
- Supervision will be by adults (over the age of 18 years) who have an enhanced DBS disclosure.
- Staffing levels and all safety considerations to be observed according to Diocesan Guidelines for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Risk Assessments will be carried out

RESPONDING TO ABUSE

All complaints or suspicions of any form of abuse will be taken seriously, whether they be of neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, emotional abuse, or spiritual abuse.

- If abuse of children, young people or vulnerable adults is reported or suspected, the procedures outlined in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook will be followed.
- A Summary of the Benefice Safeguarding Policy is available in each Church building including the Parish Hall.

All Safeguarding concerns must be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor within 24 hours.

Charity Commission – Serious Incident Reporting

The House of Bishops has provided new guidance about the necessity of reporting ‘serious incidents’ to the Charity Commission. The PCC is required to report these incidents, however, the Diocesan Board of Finance, via the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Secretary will undertake to do this on behalf of the PCCs. There are two strands for reporting Serious Incidents:

- Incidents that relate to a safeguarding situation.
- Incidents that do not.

The PCCs have passed appropriate resolutions delegating this matter to the Diocese.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The PCC has agreed a parish domestic abuse statement including who to contact if there are concerns. A statement with tear off contact numbers is located on each church noticeboard and in the Parish Hall. Further details to be found in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook page 24 item 7.5. The Domestic Abuse liaison officer is Sheila Boswell.

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF DARTMOUTH AND DITTISHAM 2022

Benefice Wide	Revd Dr Andrew Langley	01803 832189
	Colin Cooper	01803 833404
	Ernie Wingeatt	01803 834453
St Clement’s, Dartmouth	Ernie Wingeatt	01803 834453
St George’s, Dittisham	Penny Matthews	01803 722235
St Petrox, Dartmouth	Fiona Andrews	01803 834576
St Saviour’s, Dartmouth	Wendy Rendle	01803 832435
Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer	Sheila Boswell	01803 833252
DBS & Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Rosie Beard	01803 835540

CONTACT NUMBERS IN CASE OF A SAFEGUARDING MERGENCY

Agency	Role	Contact
MASH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	Children and Families	0345 155 1071 Out of Hours: 0845 6000 388 Torbay MASH 01803 208100
MASH	Concerns about adults	Torbay Safeguarding Adults: 01803 219700
Archdeacon of Totnes	Clergy Allegations	01626 832064
CCPAS	Emergency Helpline – 24 hours	0303 003 1111
Diocesan Safeguarding Team	Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor	Charlie Pitman 01392 345909 Mobile: 07889 542640 James May 01392 345910 Mobile: 07889 542646
Childline	Free Support for Children	0800 1111
Silverline (Childline for Adults)	Free Support for Adults	0800 470 8090
Age UK	Support for Older People	0800 055 6112
Domestic Abuse	Torbay Domestic Abuse Service	01803 698869
Rape Crisis	Helpline	National: 0808 802 9999 Devon & Torbay: 01392 204174
NSPCC:	National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	0808 800 5000
SAMARITANS	For those in crisis	116 123