

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

MAY 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of the Safeguarding Newsletter. In this period of uncertainty due to the current Covid19 pandemic, we are bringing you a newsletter to update and support you during these exceptional times. The Safeguarding Team are continuing to work remotely, offering support to parishes and those within our church communities whilst working in partnership with our statutory partners. An update in relation to training, safer recruitment, reporting of serious incidents and the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) are provided in this newsletter in addition to contact details for support in relation to safeguarding concerns.

Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2)

As many of you may be aware a Past Case Review is currently being undertaken. The update below has been provided by The Revd Canon Dr Ian Jorysz, Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Manchester and his delegated safeguarding lead.

No one could have predicted how our world would be turned upside down this year. As we know, many events and projects have been affected. Amongst these are the Past Cases Review 2, details of which are to be found via the [link](#) on the front page of our diocesan website. This is the review taking place throughout the Church of England which seeks to confirm that every safeguarding concern involving clergy or church officers has been appropriately handled. Where previously unknown concerns come to light, or a concern has possibly not been properly handled, then further sensitive inquiries are made.

Inevitably the review has been delayed by the lockdown. For instance, it has not been possible to access some paper records at present. As a result, the timescale for the review has been extended nationally by six months, so that it is now to be completed by summer, 2021. We hope to complete the review in our diocese before then.

It may be that you are aware of a safeguarding concern which you believe has not been reported, or was not well handled at the time. If so, we should very much like to hear from you. We understand how difficult this can be when you have been personally involved, and have organised support to be available independent from the church.



There is also a nationally-arranged phone line provided by the NSPCC, if you do not wish to make direct contact. Details are:

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Abbey Clephane-Wilson

0161 828 1451

Abbey@manchester.anglican.org

NSPCC church helpline

0800 80 20 20

You will by now understand that the Diocese has been working closely with a local survivor organisation, Survivors Manchester, to ensure that we put the needs of the victim/survivor at the forefront of our minds. Chief Executive of Survivors Manchester, Duncan Craig OBE, who is a survivor himself, met with us recently and had these words to say:

"I'm really proud of the Diocese for being brave enough to face difficult conversations and ensure anyone impacted by this process has access to the right support. My organisation, along with Greater Manchester Rape Crisis, are again working together and have that support now in place."

The following organisations are available now for support:

Survivors Manchester (men and boys)

0161 236 2182; support@survivorsmanchester.org.uk

Greater Manchester Rape Crisis (women and girls)

0161 273 4500; help@manchesterrapecrisis.co.uk

Both organisations are supported by National Survivor Helplines: women and girls can call **Rape Crisis England & Wales** on 0808 802 9999; whilst boys and men can access the **National Male Survivor Helpline** on 0808 800 5005.

Those concerned about their own past or present behaviour should contact **Stop It Now** (0808 1000 900 or email info@stopso.org.uk), which is able to direct to local support.

Safer recruitment

Safer recruitment still continues to be a priority within the church, but is being done in a different way. As outlined in Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance (2017), Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are only one part of the process to ensure safer recruitment.

The following guidance around DBS checks has been provided by thirtyone:eight who complete the checks for us. They are continuing to monitor the situation with regard to the outbreak of the Coronavirus and in partnership with the DBS, are reviewing their guidance and processes to keep you updated with the latest changes to our standard operating procedures and advice.



Safeguarding policy and guidance

Information in relation to current safeguarding matters can be accessed via the safeguarding web page and resource page which has been set up in view of the current challenges faced by our church communities and includes specific guidance, for example, around facilitating Zoom meetings safely and securely.

Training

Given the current situation, it is not possible to provide face-to-face safeguarding training. We recognise however that those with safeguarding roles and responsibilities continue to require training to ensure that we are providing safe environments for our children and adults at risk. Basic safeguarding training (C0) is available on the Safeguarding Web page for all of those new to role and C1 safeguarding foundation training has now been made available on line via the safeguarding web page for those who require safeguarding training which must be undertaken every three years.

The National Safeguarding Team are in the process of formulating level C2 safeguarding training for leaders which can be facilitated via Zoom. Parishes will be sent further communication when this resource is made available. If you have any queries in relation to safeguarding training please contact Kathryn Ford (Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) at KathrynFord@manchester.anglican.org



Checking ID documents

As the public is being advised to work from home where possible, this is causing difficulties in receiving the physical documents and is delaying applications, and in some cases, preventing applications from being submitted. To ensure that the necessary DBS checks can still be carried out, the DBS standard and enhanced ID checking guidance will be changed for a temporary period.

The change will enable:

- ID documents to be viewed over video link
- Scanned images to be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted

The applicant will be required to present the original versions of these documents when they first attend their paid or volunteering role.

Their Disclosure helpline remains open to answer any questions you may have but with staff working remotely it may take them a little longer than usual to answer. Call them on 0303 003 1111.

Reporting of incidents to the Charity Commission

All serious safeguarding incidents within Parishes must be reported to the Charity Commission and new, '*Guidance for DBFs, PCCs and Religious Communities: Identifying and Reporting Safeguarding Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission*', outlines responsibilities, including, delegating responsibility for reporting incidents to the Charity Commission and National Safeguarding Team, to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. This guidance is available on the Safeguarding Web page.

**DEALING WITH
ANY CONCERNS
OR SOMETHING
THAT YOU FEEL
UNSURE ABOUT**

In the event that you are worried about a child or adult who is being harmed or at risk of being harmed then please email the Manchester Diocesan Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@manchester.anglican.org

thirtyone:eight (Churches Child Protection Advisor Service) may be contacted out of hours on 0303 003 1111. If you feel that a child or adult is at immediate risk of harm ring 999 immediately and update the Safeguarding Team as soon as possible.