

Safeguarding Children and Adults

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The disclosures in 2016 of the sexual abuse of boys within the world of football once more reaffirm the experience and research of those who work in the safeguarding field. Child abuse is widespread, hidden and devastating. Following the publicity given to these disclosures, 3 referrals were received by the Diocese of non-current abuse by clergy from male victims and survivors, prompting immediate investigation by the safeguarding team. The Peterborough Diocese has cooperated fully with the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), now led by Professor Alexis Jay, in its many requests for information. The inquiry was set up to investigate whether public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse in England and Wales. In 2015 the national church commissioned the Social Care Institute of Excellence to undertake a safeguarding audit of all dioceses. The Peterborough Diocese's audit took place in February 2016. In addition to commending our good practice, the auditors suggested ways in which safeguarding arrangements within the Diocese could be further developed and improved. An action plan responding to the report's recommendations was agreed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Management Group on 8 July 2016.



The Diocesan Safeguarding Management Group continued to meet and fulfil its responsibilities for the strategic management of safeguarding in relation to Diocese and Cathedral. In February, it completed its first internal serious case review and made a number of robust recommendations. All were being implemented throughout 2016.

Whilst all of us in our churches have a responsibility for the protection and care of others, formal responsibility for safeguarding children and adults is invested in the role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Diocesan safeguarding work continues to fall into four main areas, casework, provision of information and advice, training, and developing and making safeguarding policy and guidance available for parish and cathedral church use.

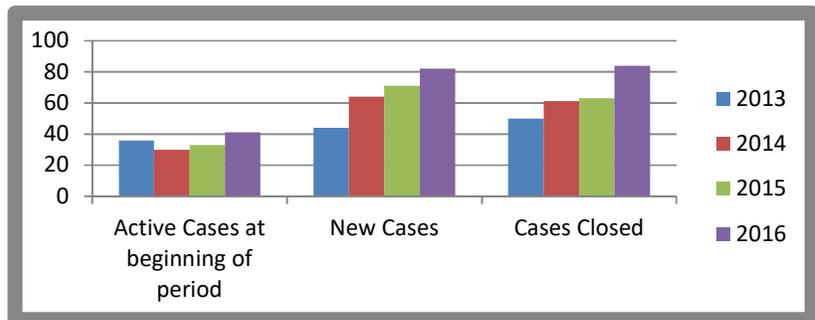
In response to a continuing year on year rise in concerns reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and in preparation for the implementation of an extensive national church safeguarding training programme in 2017, Beverly Huff, a former Senior Police Officer, was appointed Assistant Safeguarding Adviser in July. Beverly brings extensive expertise and experience to this new safeguarding team.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser continued in his role on the national church's Joint Safeguarding Working Group whilst also joining the Spiritual Abuse Task Force which began its work in October. He was asked to undertake an independent case review for the Diocese of Ely which was completed in February.



3 **Casework** refers to the direct safeguarding work undertaken with Parish Churches and the Cathedral in relation to children, young people, vulnerable adults, survivors of abuse, and those who pose a risk to others in our churches. (So a "case" refers to a unit of work over time focussed upon a named child or adult.)

Greater sensitivity to issues of abuse across the Diocese in 2015 saw an increase of 9% across all categories of safeguarding referrals against the 2014 levels, and 2016 saw a further increase of 15.5% against 2015 levels.

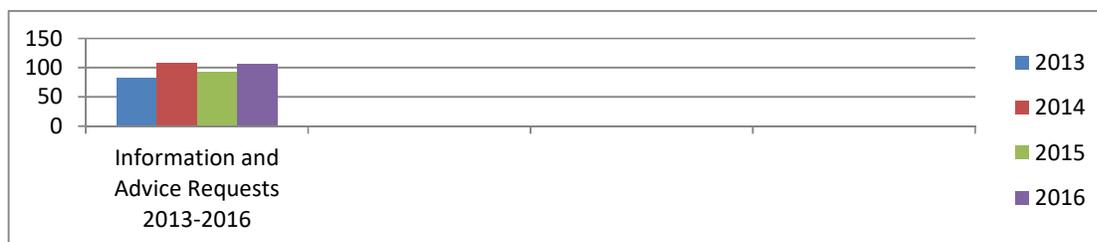


In 2016 there were more than twice as many referrals concerning children than adult; the largest single category in both child and adult related cases was sexual abuse. The number of cases of reported domestic violence was as great as the number of reported cases of current sexual abuse in the adult group. 3.5% of cases referred concerned non-current sexual abuse.

New Cases 2016	Child	Adult
All	57 (70%)	25 (30%)
Sexual Abuse	36 (44%)	6 (7%)
Sexual abuse non current	-	3
Physical Abuse	3	0
Domestic Violence	1	6 (7%)
Psychological Emotional	6 (7%)	3
DBS Blemish	-	3
Financial	-	2
Neglect	1	1
Other categories	10	2

Of the **criminal record checks** undertaken throughout 2016, 3 were found to contain evidence of offences. These are often referred to as "blemished" criminal record disclosures.

4 **We** receive many requests for **Information and Advice** that do not relate to concerns about a particular child or adult. (So Information and advice relates solely to units of work concerning specific issues.) For example, requests by telephone, e mail or face to face contact concerning, babysitting, data protection, criminal record checks home visiting, photography, bell ringing, the role of the parish safeguarding officer and so on. Requests for such information (107) showed an increase in 2016 against 2015 and 2013, matching 2014 levels (108)



5 Safeguarding Foundation and Specialist Training Workshops.

Delivered in 2016

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Saturday 9 th January 2016 | St Marks Peterborough |
| 2. Saturday 20 th February 2016 | Bouverie Court |
| 3. Wednesday 23 rd March 2016 | Bouverie Court, Northampton |
| 4. Saturday 9 th April 2016 | Werrington Church, Peterboro' |
| 5. Tuesday 12 th April 2016 | Bouverie Court, Northampton. |
| 6. Saturday 30 th May 2016 | Christ the King, Kettering |
| 7. Tuesday 13 th September 2016 | Bouverie Court, Northampton |
| 8. Saturday 8 th October 2016 | St Barnabas Wellingborough |
| 9. Wednesday 20 th October 2016 | Youth Intern Training, Bouverie |
| 10. 10 th November 2016 | Bouverie Court, Northampton |
| 11. Saturday 12 th November 2016 | Moulton Northampton |
| 12. Saturday 26 th November 2016 | St Lukes, Duston |
| 13. Thursday 1 st December 2016 | Curates, Bouverie |
| 14. Saturday 3 rd December 2016 | Rutland Deanery |

6 Safer Church Policy and Practice Guidance



Safeguarding Policy and Guidance can be found on the Safeguarding pages of the Peterborough Diocese website and will undergo major review in 2017.

<http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding>

7 Church Of England Policy and Practice Guidance

The two National Church Policies “Protecting All God’s Children” and Promoting a Safe Church” have been re-written and combined into one - “Promoting a Safer Church” which was released for consultation toward the end of 2016. The complete list of current national safeguarding policy and practice guidance is as follows:

Policy Statements-

[Protecting All God's Children \(safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th edition, 2010\)](#)

[Promoting a Safe Church \(safeguarding policy for adults\) 2006](#)

Practice Guidance-

[Safeguarding Training & Development Practice Guidance \(2017\)](#)

[Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations \(2015\)](#)

[Risk Assessment for Individuals who may Pose Risk to Children or Adults \(2015\)](#)

[Safer Recruitment \(2016\)](#)

[DBS Eligibility and related matters - Frequently Asked Questions - 2016](#)

[Safeguarding in Religious Communities \(2015\)](#)

[Responding to Domestic Abuse \(guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility, 2006\)](#)

[Responding Well \(policy and guidance for the church of England, 20](#)

Joint Practice Guidance with The Methodist Church-

- [Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church \(2015\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Guidance for Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships \(2015\)](#)

This report was produced by Garry Johnson, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, 31st January 2017
