

## SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

### January 2015

Emailed to clergy, licensed lay ministers, parish safeguarding officers and church wardens. Please let Karen Setchfield ([karen.setchfield@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:karen.setchfield@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)) know if your role has changed. Please pass this newsletter on to as many people as possible!

**WELCOME ...** to the Newsletter for Safeguarding Children and Adults who may be vulnerable. You can find a printer-friendly version of this and previous Newsletters at: [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguardingnews](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguardingnews)

#### CONTENT

1 Please ensure you let me know if you are invited to attend any of the meetings listed below  
2 Invitation to those interested and suitably experienced to present the Diocesan Safeguarding Foundation Training Course to all non clergy who are recommended to attend.

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#### 1

**Attending Local Authority Designated Officer Strategy meetings, Child/Adult Protection Conferences, other safeguarding meetings formally convened by the Local Authority, Education, or other departments or groups including schools.**

***This Newsletter item explains why it is important to let me know right away if you are invited to any of the above meetings and gives examples of what has happened when you fail to notify me!***

From time to time clergy, others in roles licensed by the Diocese, or volunteers, or paid workers may be asked to attend a meeting because of your connection with a child, young person or vulnerable adult who worships at your church.

The meetings listed above will usually assess a current risk to a child or adult inviting contributions from all present and determine next steps. These may include allocating actions for clergy or any other church member invited to the meeting which you will be asked to report back on at a



further meeting. This may include the production of a written report. Perhaps you have attended such a meeting and have experienced this.

It is very positive that such invitations are increasing as it means that social and child care agencies and organisations are starting to recognise the importance of the role of the church in children and adults lives and to value the contribution we can make to supporting and protecting them.

Clergy and many others in our churches have valuable insights and relevant opinions and much experience to bring to such forums. However, for the most part professional training in child and adult protection and experience of working in safeguarding generally will usually not have been a requirement for your existing role. Others invited to these meetings will usually be professionally qualified and experienced in their particular field with regard to children and adult safeguarding.

There have been a number of occasions in recent months when conferences or similar meetings convened in accordance with child and adult protection procedures have taken place of which the local church has not made me aware. Unfortunately, a number of problems have arisen as a result! For example:

1 Some from churches have been unfamiliar with inevitable jargon, expectations upon invitees and processes and have been unable afterward to advise me of the name or status of the meeting or which agency convened it.

2 Those at the meeting may assume it ok to reveal to the family under discussion the identity of the referrer. If the referrer is a priest or other worker living in the same road as the family who worship at the church, very difficult consequences can arise. It can be assumed that the clergy member is a trained "professional", and is, like other "professionals," aware that his name might be revealed.

3 The minister may be misquoted and misrepresented in the minute of the meeting. If this happens it is never to the advantage of the church.

4 Information I may have is not shared at the meeting.

It is part of my function as Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser to attend such meetings on behalf of the church. I can attend with you or sometimes go in your place if this seems appropriate. Please let me know about them!

## **2 Safeguarding Trainers Wanted!**

The number of people across the Diocese for whom Safeguarding Children and Adults Foundation Training is recommended or required has grown phenomenally over the past 18 months as the Diocese seeks to implement national Church



expectations. At present only the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser presents the training. Help is needed urgently! Might you be interested? Your audience would be:

- Anyone working with 0-18 year olds in the name of the church
- Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (eg luncheon club's home visiting)
- Designated persons for Safeguarding, usually Parish or Cathedral Safeguarding Officers
- Members of PCC's
- Churchwardens (where in direct contact with vulnerable groups)
- Caretakers (where in direct contact with vulnerable groups)
- Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are 0-18 year olds or vulnerable adults in the group
- Lead Recruiters (CCPAS DBS scheme)
- Bell Ringers
- Lay Worship Leaders

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser will retain responsibility for the Safeguarding Training of all parish and cathedral clergy, cathedral staff, curates and clergy with PTO.

***If you have experience in safeguarding children or adults, preferably including training, and are interested, please e mail me for a role description and further information.***

Garry Johnson  
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

### **Don't forget!**

You can get information about many of your safeguarding queries on line at [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding)

Or you can ring **Garry Johnson, Safeguarding Officer**, on 01733 887000, or e mail him at [garry.johnson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:garry.johnson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk).