

**Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

**Independent Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel.**



The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) continue to meet and fulfil their responsibilities for the strategic oversight of safeguarding in relation to our Diocese and Cathedral. Our independent chair stood down from her role in March 2019, having assisted the Diocese embed safeguarding for 5 years.

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 vested in the role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Team. Bev Huff is the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), Sam Suddery is the Assistant Safeguarding Adviser. Sharon Welbourne is the part time safeguarding administrator, as well as continuing in her role as the Diocesan Secretary's PA.

Diocesan safeguarding work continues to fall into three main areas: 1. casework and provision of information and advice; 2. training and development and 3. making safeguarding policy and guidance easily available for parish and cathedral church use. These will now be covered below:

**1. Casework and Information and Advice**

**CASEWORK AND ADVICE STATISTICS 2014 -2018**

|                                             | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cases active at beginning of period         | 30          | 36          | 41          | 50          | <b>43</b>   |
| New cases since beginning of period         | 64          | 71          | 82          | 103         | <b>146</b>  |
| Closed during the period                    | 61          | 63          | 84          | 87          | <b>158</b>  |
| <b>Total Active Cases at 31/12</b>          | <b>33</b>   | <b>41</b>   | <b>38</b>   | <b>50</b>   | <b>43</b>   |
| <b>Information and Advice consultations</b> | <b>108</b>  | <b>93</b>   | <b>107</b>  | <b>173</b>  | <b>409</b>  |



Casework refers to the direct safeguarding work undertaken with our Parish Churches and the Cathedral in relation to children, young people, adults with care and support needs (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 focused upon a named child or adult.

We receive many requests for *Information and Advice*. Information and advice relates solely to units of work concerning specific issues that do not relate to concerns about a particular child or adult. For example: requests by telephone, e-mail or face to face contact concerning: babysitting, data protection, disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks, home visiting, photography, bell ringing, the role of the parish / benefice safeguarding officer, training etc.

An independent review was carried on one case, as a lessons learnt guidance. Recommendations made from this review have been adopted and implemented.

A Past Cases Review (PCR) was conducted by all Diocese during 2008/09. This was a large-scale review of the handling by the Church of child protection cases over many years and a scrutiny of the files of clergy and church officers to identify any persons presenting on-going risks to children which had not been acted upon appropriately. The process for conducting the PCR was based on a House of Bishops Protocol. In 2017/2018 all Diocese PCR processes were reviewed, Peterborough 's review was found to be sound.

Later this year there will be PCR-2 and the implementation of this should be on a phased basis over 2019/2020. The proposed scope of the PCR-2 will be: known cases in respect of the alleged abuse of children and vulnerable adults from January 2007. This includes cases of suspected domestic violence. The key purpose of PCR2 is to try to ensure that risks to children and also to vulnerable adults which are known within the Church, or which can be identified from files, are assessed and appropriate action taken. As more information about this is received from the National Safeguarding Team then appropriate processes will be undertaken.

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## 2. Safeguarding training and development.



Since the launch of the National Safeguarding Team's training strategy in 2017, five 'Core' training modules and two 'Specialist' training modules have been, and continue to be delivered across the Diocese to everyone at varying levels. The DSA team have safely recruited 26 volunteer trainers who assist in delivering C0 and C1 modules. **In 2018, 86 training sessions were delivered** across the Diocese, including evenings and weekends. The DSA team delivered 62 of these sessions and 24 were delivered by our volunteers. **In 2017, there were 29** training sessions delivered by the DSA team **compared to 14 the previous year**. For 2019 we have 31 training events scheduled so far, which also cover evening and weekend sessions.

Our training strategy and delivery training programme for 2018 and 2019 is monitored by our DSAP. The National Safeguarding Team are making substantial changes to the safeguarding training modules, which are yet to be ratified by the House of Bishops. As soon as the changes are agreed then the Diocesan safeguarding training strategy will be reviewed and communicated.

C0 basic safeguarding training and C1 safeguarding are available on-line. The following numbers have completed training this way: C0 training 2017/2018: **818** and C1 training 2018: **423**

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## 3. Safer church policy and practice guidance.



Safeguarding Policy and Guidance can be found on the Safeguarding pages of the Peterborough Diocese website and this underwent a major review in 2017. The website continues to be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that the information is current and of use.

Several new policies were published by the National Safeguarding Team, following sign off by the House of Bishops, this included a Parish Safeguarding Handbook. All safeguarding guidance can be found here:

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