

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

May 2020

Please let Luke Smith know if your role has changed.
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This Newsletter advises you of arrangements for notifying safeguarding concerns, information about our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel and other news.



As we continue responding to Coronavirus, a lot of us are wondering how we can walk in faith, resist fear, and support those who are most vulnerable.

The first thing to say is that, following the advice of experts: washing our hands regularly; self-isolating if we have symptoms; only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home) and if you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times – is a really important place to start.

There are so many worries for many during this difficult and scary time. There are those who have lost loved ones during this pandemic; those that are physically and/or mentally vulnerable; those who are financially insecure and worried about needing to take time off work; those who do not have family or friends and are facing this situation alone and those who, by self-isolating are at more risk of domestic / sexual abuse occurring within the home. People's mental well-being is also being tested during this time – it is an emotional roller coaster of a journey.

What else can we do to safeguard? Well, the thing about having hope, faith and courage is that, although they are gifts from God, we can also do our bit to nurture them. There is so much great work going on across our Diocese and Peterborough Cathedral. We have been turning our attention even more to helping people and each other. Where there have been people in our lives or community that we could call, reach out to or pray for we have done this. By telephoning someone, praying, picking up groceries for people, donating income or food to those less fortunate, volunteering for the NHS volunteer scheme – these are all ways that we are working together to help. What is great to know is that, from a safeguarding perspective, where there is a

safeguarding concern that is noticed the referrals are still coming through to our team – thank you.

What we will try to do in this newsletter is: provide advice and guidance for additional support that is out there, raise awareness about the Diocesan Safeguarding Panel for the Diocese of Peterborough and share some good news stories to help lift people's hearts and spirits.

Let's remember that we are in this together. Let's look after ourselves and our communities, gain courage from each other, and walk together. As it says in Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT



We have all had to come together during a time where many are finding it hard to access the help they need. We know that COVID-19 may have a serious impact on the lives of women, men, young people and children.

As we are adapting to a new way of working and providing care and support, so are our partner agencies. Our partner agencies want to reassure everyone that though they are all working remotely, **services are still open**, and they will be adapting so that they can continue to support people during this challenging time.

We want to ensure that nobody is left isolated or without support. As a Diocese our communication lead, Andrew Evans, has helped us set up a COVID 19 communication page on the Diocese of Peterborough website and the link to the information held can be found here:

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/coronavirus/helpful-safeguarding-resources-during-lockdown>

Below are some links to external support that may help us to reach out to the vulnerable and others who may be at risk during this period

DOMESTIC ABUSE

If you, or anyone you know, are in immediate danger, call **999** and ask for the police - the police will continue to respond to emergency calls.

If you, or anyone you know, are in danger and unable to talk on the phone, call **999 and then press 55**. This will transfer your call to the relevant police force who will assist you without you having to speak

- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** **0808 2000 247** (lines are free and open 24 hours).
- **Men's Advice Line:** **0808 801 0327**. Confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic violence – emotional support, practical advice and signposting to other services for specialist help. <https://mensadvice.org.uk/>
- **The Mankind Initiative:** **0870 794 412**. Support and information for male victims of domestic abuse. <https://www.mankind.org.uk/>
- **Galop - National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline:** **0300 999 5428 / 0800 999 5428**. www.galop.org.uk

There will also be local support being offered in your area, so please check on the internet to see what is available.

MENTAL HEALTH

It can sometimes be hard to know what to do or say when supporting someone who will find this situation an emotionally difficult time. Also, if you are living with a mental health problem, or supporting someone who is, then having access to the right information - about a condition, treatment options, or practical issues - is extremely useful.

The charity 'MIND' has such information aimed at helping friends, family, carers and others to give support and take care of yourselves too. Their website can be found here: <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

You can also contact the Samaritans:

- **Samaritans Helpline:** **08457 90 90 90** (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.

SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRES (SARC)

Our three local authority areas are also offering services through SARC:

- Peterborough: The Elms: **01480 425003** (9am – 5pm). Out of hours: 0800 193 5434. Provides 24/7 free support and practical help to anyone in Cambridge who have experienced sexual violence and / or sexual abuse. www.theelmssarc.org
- Northamptonshire: Serenity: **01604 601713**. Sensitive and confidential 24/7 service to anyone in Northamptonshire who has been the victim of a rape or serious sexual assault. www.serenitynorthants.co.uk
- Rutland: Juniper Lodge: **0116 273 3330**. Help and support for those affected by rape and sexual assault in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. www.juniperlodge.org.uk.

OTHER SUPPORT

As well as those statutory and volunteer agencies within your area there are also some national organisations who provide support to people who have been abused. Here is a list of some of those organisations:

- **Action on Elder Abuse Helpline:** 080 8808 8141 (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm)
- **Child-line:** 0800 1111 (lines are free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything
- **Cruse:** 0800 808 1677. Bereavement helpline
- **MACSAS: Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors.** 0808 801 0340. Support for those abused by ministers, clergy or others under the guise of the church
- **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline:** 0808 800 5000 (lines are free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- **NAPAC: National Association for People Abused in Childhood.** 0808 801 0331. Support for adults abused as children
- **Stop It Now:** 0808 1000 900. Preventing child sexual abuse
- **Survivors Trust:** 01788 550554. Support for men who have experienced sexual assault or rape

LINKS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY SAFEGUARDING BOARDS

- Peterborough Safeguarding Board: www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk/
- Northamptonshire Children's Safeguarding Board:
www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/
- Northamptonshire Adults Safeguarding Board:
www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/adult-social-care/safeguarding/Pages/safeguarding-adults-board.aspx
- Rutland Safeguarding Board: <http://lrsb.org.uk/>

The list is not exhaustive and you may wish to consider compiling a list of useful local partnership contacts to share with your communities via the many communication and engagement channels that you have in place. This can be alongside the other ways that you are supporting your communities and each other, such as:

- Livestreaming services
- Prayer at certain times
- Thought for the day videos
- Lighting candles at certain times
- On-line quiz events (happy to open and drink a bottle of wine for any winners!!!)

Despite the fact that the Diocesan Offices have been closed from Tuesday 24/03/2020, the DSA team are continuing to work from home and are aiming to provide an on-going service to you all.

Regardless of circumstances, if you see or hear something which makes you think that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be being neglected or abused in any way, you should not hesitate to report your concerns. In an emergency call 999. Please continue to contact the DSA team via email or phone. If you do phone leave a message on our answer machines as we do pick the messages up remotely.

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY PANEL



The purpose of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) is to provide advice, scrutiny and, where necessary, challenge to the Diocesan Bishop, the Diocese and Peterborough Cathedral regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The panel aims to ensure that both the current statutory and relevant House of Bishops' practice guidance is adhered to by the Bishop and by all diocesan and cathedral staff and office holders.

The panel is independently chaired and is made up of senior church officers, diocesan staff and independent members with safeguarding expertise drawn from a wide range of agencies.

The members offer expert advice regarding the setting, revision and implementation of policies, protocols and priorities relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Panel provides an accountability structure for the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser through professional oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding practice through quality assurance and audits.

The DSAP Strategic Priorities for 2020 are:

1. **Training:** To embed the national Training Strategy for 2020 – 2022
2. **Parish Audit:** Roll Out of Parish Audit and use as a means of developing good practice, identifying areas for improvement and training needs
3. **Communication:** Develop and Deliver a Communications Strategy

At the moment there are three independent members of the panel and here is a brief biography they have each provided:

Jon McAdam, Independent DSAP Chair:

Jon currently lives in Lincoln with his wife Heidi and their 4 four children (William, Harry, Matthew and Benjamin). Prior to moving to Lincoln they lived in Peterborough where they spent many years. He is a serving police officer of 20 years; having started his career with Surrey Police, moving to Cambridgeshire Constabulary and finally moving to Lincolnshire Police. The majority of his policing career has been as a Detective, moving through the ranks working in serious crime investigations, intelligence development and proactive teams, homicide investigations as part of the Major Crime Unit for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. He then began a focused safeguarding journey within the force Public Protection Departments.

He moved to Lincolnshire Police on promotion to Superintendent and led a change programme, creating the force Protecting Vulnerable Persons Unit and developing partnership safeguarding arrangements. He is currently performing the role of Area Commander for the West of the County on temporary promotion to Chief Superintendent. He is committed to ensuring victim focus and the protection of vulnerable people.

Outside of work he is an avid rugby fan (union), having played himself since the age of 11. Finally hanging his boots up a few years ago he now coaches an under 14's team in Lincoln. He enjoys time with his family, in between renovating their home with his attempts at DIY.

Jon feels truly honoured to have taken over the role of Independent Safeguarding Chair and is looking forward to working with us all as we continue to build on the excellent work that the team has completed to date.

Deirdre Newham MBE, JP. DL, MA(Hon), Independent Member of DSAP

Deirdre, has had, after accountancy training, a varied career, initially after moving to Northamptonshire, as Manager of the Northampton Citizens Advice Bureau, then holding a number of national appointments arising from this.

She also served as a Magistrate on the Northamptonshire Bench, culminating as Chairman of the Bench and Chairman of the Magistrates Court Committee.

Chairman of the erstwhile statutory Northamptonshire Manpower Board until its abolition, she also worked as a Board Member of the Prince's Youth Business Trust for 6 years and an Independent Member of the Lord Chancellor's Panel for Judicial Appointments from 1997-2004 assessing candidates nationally for judicial office.

Her membership and then Chairmanship of the Governing Council of the University of Northampton largely coincided with a major role as Chair of the Northamptonshire Police Authority until its dissolution in 2014, with a number of subsidiary appointments arising from this.

Deirdre is currently both a Deputy Lieutenant for the County, and Chair of the Governors of the Northamptonshire High School for Girls, in addition to other consultative functions.

Bridget Robb, Independent Member of DSAP:

Bridget Robb is Churchwarden at All Saints, Middleton Cheney and Safeguarding Officer for the Chenderit Benefice.

Before retiring she was Chief Executive of the British Association of Social Workers.

Before lockdown, she helped look after her granddaughter plus being vice chair of the UK safeguarding organisation Thirtyone:Eight and a trustee of the Social Work Benevolent Trust

Since lockdown, she has become chair of her village newly established 'Good Neighbour Scheme', which is busy supporting people in a variety of ways in these difficult times.

Note: Work is in progress to expand the independent membership of the panel.

GOOD NEWS STORIES



In our last newsletter we asked for some good news stories / innovative ideas to share to help lift people's spirits. Here are the ones we know of:

- All Saints church, Peterborough have compiled a list of support agencies and contacts which have been shared across their communities
- From a circulation that was sent out by the DSA regarding NHS scams and the vulnerable being targeted, the DSA had contact from a war veteran. He wasn't currently a church goer, and highlighted he hadn't received his NHS parcel, could we help? He was put in contact with his local priest, Fr. James Mowbray, who has visited him with food parcels and it is hoped that when the churches reopen the war veteran and his wife will be joining in worship.
- On 01/05/2020, Canon Tim Alban Jones became a Quiz Show host for Peterborough Cathedral – what an entertaining event that was for all who participated
- Rutland parish website has a joke section within it – lifted the spirit of the DSA as she read the jokes and then shared them with her family
- Thoughts for the day are being provided by various church officers from across the Diocese and are posted onto the Diocese of Peterborough website –

thanks to the many who are involved in this. It was noticed that for the BBC Stay at Home event the Vicar Of Dibley also provided a thought for the day so you have started a trend

- The DSA team have been having a song of the day choice where the rules are – a member of the team picks a song, throughout the day play the song and dance like no-one is watching. We also have Conundrum days – one was based on the phrase ‘Archbishop of Canterbury’ – how many words in 20 minutes (Note: there are some good church words, safeguarding words but also some cheeky ones so you have been warned).
- A member of the Peterborough Diocesan Team, Chel Cullen, shared stories of her relative, who is an NHS worker in a hospital. The hospital put out a plea for iPads so that patients could be in contact with their loved ones during this very difficult time. At the time 7 iPads were delivered to the hospital and were distributed to the various wards and have been used to great effect to put loved ones in contact with each other. Other donations included face masks and hand creams. Their message: *As we’ve said before, thank you to each and every one of you but please keep sharing, donating and keep safe.* ❤️🙏🙏
- Kings School donating much needed PPE equipment and also making PPE equipment
- Other Diocesan and Bishop staff signing up to be a NHS volunteer – then having a slight panic when the siren alert goes off
- Church officers tirelessly sewing scrubs and facemasks for our NHS staff
- Zoom coffee mornings to ensure people are keeping in touch

We know there are a lot of great things going on out there but we can’t share them unless you tell us. Let us know of other innovative ideas that you are using to reach out to our communities. Also, if you have any good news stories, then please share them, as this is at a time for us to lift people’s spirits and share the acts of kindness that are happening. Alternatively let us know what things you have been doing to keep spirits up

NOTIFICATION FOR SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS



Any safeguarding concerns, referrals that have been made to our statutory partners and any allegations of crimes that have been committed **must** be brought to the attention of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Team

Who do I contact?

Safeguarding concerns:

Beverly Huff, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 01733 887040 or e-mail at: bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Samantha Jackson, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 01733 887041 or e-mail at: samantha.jackson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

DBS Checks:

If you have any questions about safer recruitment or DBS checks then please contact

Thirtyone:eight DBS enquiries: 0303 003 1111

or contact

Sharon Welbourne: 01733 887027 or e- mail at: sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Training Modules

See our training link on Peterborough Diocese website under safeguarding:

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/training/training>

or contact

Sharon Welbourne: 01733 887027 or e- mail at: sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk



REMINDERS

1. If someone discloses to you something which amounts to an offence you must inform the DSA team and in an emergency call 999 / 101
2. If you make a referral about a young person or vulnerable adult during your role within a church, then the DSA team must be informed and any referral forms copied to them

3. Please let Luke Smith know if you are new to your role or your role has changed: luke.smith@peterborough-diocese.org.uk
4. If your parish suffers from any crime such as theft, vandalism / graffiti please let your local police force area know
5. Our safeguarding face-to-face training is currently on hold but our on-line Basic (C0) and Foundation (C1) training is still available: To complete the training please copy the link below into a browser address bar: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> Once on this page click on the 'online courses' option, create a new account and follow the instructions.
6. Your local authority offers free safeguarding training, look on their websites to see if there is anything of interest to you

THANK YOU



Thank you for your continued support during this challenging and unprecedented time. Thanks also to:

- The Revd. Adrian Holdstock and his church support team who have helped the DSA to review our recommended Safer Church Policy for churches. This is due to be shared but the DSA is waiting for some feedback from the National Safeguarding Team as they may be making some more changes to terminology within our documents – watch this space
- The Revd. Mark Lucas has provided some useful information/advice about the use of IT during lock down. This is work that is being progressed and further information will be shared soon

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in supporting Samantha, Sharon and myself in embedding safeguarding within our churches. We couldn't do this without your help. Together, within our Diocese, we are making our churches safe places to be part of – safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

You can get information about many of your safeguarding queries on line at
www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding