

## SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

June 2020

**Please let Luke Smith know if your role has changed.**

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Despite the continued lockdown, although slightly relaxed now in parts, it has been good to continue to engage remotely with many of you over the past month. The DSA team, although working remotely from the offices, are here to assist so please continue to contact us. If you call our office please leave a message as we do pick up our voicemails remotely, or alternatively please send an email. We are still here to support and advise.

In the church community we all have a safeguarding role to play and never more so than during the lockdown. We see in the news the increase in safeguarding crimes, some resulting in fatal outcomes. In this extraordinary time, it is even harder for children, young people and adults who are already vulnerable to tell anyone what is happening to them. Our advice is – if you see something of concern say something.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, we all have a role to play. Be curious and be the eyes and ears within our community to help keep people safe. During lockdown you may be dropping off a food parcel and note that children are left home alone or you may call someone to chat to them and they may sound scared or nervous of someone else in the household. Churches may be opening for individual prayer and you may see something that is of a concern. If you have that 'uh-oh' feeling that something doesn't seem right, then say something.

Help keep people safe during this difficult time, say something if you see something. 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.

This newsletter provides: an update on safeguarding training; details of changes to our safer church policy; advice about the Safeguarding Dashboard App and a reminder of the advice and guidance for additional support that is out there.

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



Due to lockdown our face-to-face training has been cancelled. On-line training for Basic (C0) and Foundation (C1) training is still available. The National Safeguarding Team has recommended that *'all clergy and church officers who are not able to access face to face training undertake this'*.

To complete the training this way: 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.

In the meantime, the DSA team are undertaking virtual training with the National Safeguarding Training Team to progress virtual Leadership (C2) training. The National Safeguarding Team are in the final stages of the development of the 'Virtual Leadership Module'. This has meant several Zoom meetings and re-writing of the current Leadership (C2) module. The module will be piloted by another Diocese and once it has been agreed and it has been tested by the DSA team, then training dates will start to be added to our website. The dates will be communicated through our communication leads for the Diocese and the Cathedral.

Of note the National Safeguarding Team are also progressing various pieces of work in their 'vision and plan for safeguarding learning'. They have a Task and Finish Group which has started a project planning process for each of the training modules. So more changes will come.

**Note:** Your local authority offers free safeguarding training, look on their websites to see if there is anything of interest to you

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## SAFER CHURCH POLICY FOR PARISHES



The recommended Diocesan Safer Church Policy for parishes to adapt each year for their parish has been amended. The policy now works alongside the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and references the relevant sections. *Thanks to the Revd. Adrian Holdstock and his team for assisting in this piece of work.*

The document has been updated on the safeguarding page of the Diocese of Peterborough website and can be found here:

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/safeguarding/parish-safer-church-policy---revised-19062020.docx>

We were due to launch the updated policy last month, when a Parish Safeguarding Officer from another parish contacted the team. They highlighted that their parish had been in contact with their local authority and concerns were raised by the local authority that information was missing from our policies, which would impact on the request being made. Our policy now has the information required and, as our policies are taken from the Church of England national practice guidance, the concern has been shared with the National Safeguarding Team. *Thanks to the church team for raising these concerns.*

Within the revised policy you will see some added terminology such as ‘adults at risk’, ‘protected characteristics’ and also references to statutory guidelines under Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018 and the Care Act, 2014. Hopefully the policy is self-explanatory but if you have any concerns then please contact the DSA team

The aim of the policy is that it is amended to be made bespoke for your parish and is discussed and agreed at your PCC meeting each year.

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## **DASHBOARD APP**



The Archdeacons sent out their Articles of Enquiry and within the document there were some safeguarding questions, one of which was:

**Did your Parish complete the 2019 Annual Parish Safeguarding Self-Audit and send it to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor?**

**If not, please explain why not**

**Your answer to this question will help us to help you address the matter.**

Thank you to all of those parishes who returned your completed Articles of Enquiry.

Our plans are to review the safeguarding answers within the returned documents. We are comparing the returns with the 2019 paper safeguarding audits that we received, alongside those parishes that are using the safeguarding Dashboard App. In effect bringing three pieces of work together into one system. *(I must say it must have been quite entertaining for an observer to see me try and explain my thoughts on a virtual meeting when it was very clear in my head but didn't quite come across in my verbal explanation. At the time I didn't have the knowledge in how to share my screen so I could show Sharon and Sam what I meant – sorry to Sharon and Sam).*

Our aim is to try and encourage and support parishes to use the Dashboard – so you may have received emails from either Sam or Sharon (sometimes both as there was a crossover so my apologies). What a success this has been so far:

<b>Numbers of parishes using Dashboard</b>		
	<b>Oakham</b>	<b>Northampton</b>
<b>Before lockdown</b>	15	25
<b>Now</b>	48	51
<b>Waiting to join</b>	16	26

For those of you who opt to sign up to the Parish Dashboard App, remember that it is not necessary for you to complete a paper audit.

Our helpful video will tell you more about how the App works

<https://vimeo.com/315725141>

If you are interested in registering your parish for the Dashboard App, please contact Sam Jackson at [Sam.Jackson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:Sam.Jackson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk) for further information.

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**PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT**



As mentioned in our recent newsletter, the restrictions during COVID-19 may have a serious impact on the lives of women, men, young people and children.

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>

The National Safeguarding Team have also provided advice for parishes during COVID-19 please see link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-and-coronavirus-covid-19>

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

Thank you to those parishes who have taken this information from the previous newsletter, made it bespoke for their area and circulated to all their church members. Re-enforcing the message to be vigilant and not ignore concerns but also providing reassurance that help is there.

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.

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### **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](mailto:bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

**Samantha Jackson, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:** 01733 887041 or e-mail at: [samantha.jackson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)







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## **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](mailto:luke.smith@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)
4. If, as a church officer, someone disclosed something to you which you did not report or raise the concern at the time or subsequently then please speak with the DSA team
5. The National Safeguarding Team have recently sent out information about the 'Charity, Victim Support, to run Church support service for survivors of abuse'. Please see the link below for more information, more information will be in the next newsletter: <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/news-and-views/charity-victim-support-run-church-support>

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## **THANK YOU**



**FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

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](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding)