

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Please let Karen Setchfield know if your role has changed.
karen.setchfield@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

This Newsletter advises you of arrangements for notifying safeguarding concerns; arrangements for safeguarding training, policies and procedures for our Diocese and ongoing projects.



Hello again, here is the latest newsletter for 2020. At the end of our last newsletter in December we said: *'The year's end means the beginning of a new one with new possibilities'*. Who could ever have imagined what is happening across the country and internationally and the extreme challenges everyone is facing globally.

As it has been mentioned during many message from our church leaders: Church is changing and being done in a different way. As the Archbishops' letter states: *"Our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold. But this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop. Far from it"*.

Bishop Donald has also given clear messages of support, guidance and encouragement to ensure that everyone stays safe, supporting everyone in different ways. During these very difficult and challenging times we have all seen acts of kindness and community spirit alongside some very incomprehensible human behaviours – fear and the unknown can do this.

There are so many different and important keyworkers who are helping to keep society as safe as it can be. Whether this be through things like: supplying and delivering provisions, offering financial guidance, keeping prisons safe, keeping our streets safe or providing medical care. Our partner agencies and other keyworkers will be stretched to capacity and will face their own challenges. Others will face challenges in many other ways such as socially, financially and through loss of loved ones – our churches can help, and are helping, through offering support to everyone

through prayer, virtual services, phone calls, thoughts of the day, and setting up of chat groups as examples. You all have an important part to play.

Amidst the chaos and uncertainty, take a step back to reflect. Sadly, it is a fact that the lockdown that our country is currently under may mean that violence and abuse within the home will increase. The church is unique in its ministry to both those who have been abused and those who have abused. We therefore need to create and maintain a culture of informed vigilance to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults – and to do this in a different way. Please read on to see how we can do this, together.

So, what news can the DSA team bring to help support everyone during these different times – grab a drink and read on:

SHARE THE 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. As it says in Psalm 46: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” We can take some time to sit quietly and pray, letting God know about those things that are on our hearts and minds. When we do that, we make that connection with God that nourishes and sustains us.

Every church within our Diocese and the Cathedral are providing support in various ways: Here are a few examples of what is happening across the Diocese and within Peterborough Cathedral:

- Livestreaming services
- Prayer at certain times
- Thought for the day video’s
- Lighting candles at certain times

Please 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.

SAFER RECRUITMENT



Safer recruitment still continues within the church, but is being done in a different way. As we know, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are only part of the process to safer recruitment.

The following guidance around DBS checks has been provided by Thirtyone:eight, who complete the checks for us. They are continuing to monitor the situation with regard to the outbreak of the Coronavirus and in partnership with the DBS, are reviewing their guidance and processes to keep you updated with the latest changes to our standard operating procedures and advice.

Checking ID documents

As the public is being advised to work from home where possible, this is causing difficulties in receiving the physical documents and is delaying applications, and in some cases, preventing applications from being submitted. To ensure that the necessary DBS checks can still be carried out, the DBS standard and enhanced ID checking guidance will be changed for a temporary period.

The change will enable:

- ID documents to be viewed over video link
- Scanned images to be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted

The applicant will be required to present the original versions of these documents when they first attend their employment or volunteering role.

Their Disclosure helpline remains open to answer any questions you may have but with staff working remotely it may take us a little longer than usual to answer. Call them on 0303 003 1111 option 1.



FOR CIRCULATION PLEASE



As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter abuse within families and within homes / places where people live may increase during the countries 'lockdown' measures. The DSA team will be monitoring key safeguarding messages that are being shared across our three partnership areas: Peterborough, Rutland and Northamptonshire. These messages will be circulated through our communication leads for the Diocese and the Cathedral. If you are also able to then share any of those messages, please do so.

Could you also please try to share the following information through your own media/ communication channels – within services, on websites, through local newsletters as examples:

Safeguarding
Young people and vulnerable adults

The welfare of children or of adults at risk of abuse is of paramount importance. We urge anyone wishing to give information or make disclosures of church-related abuse to make direct contact with our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers (DSA) on 01733 887040 / 887041. If people feel it would be easier to email, then please contact:

bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

samantha.jackson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

The Diocese of Peterborough has also appointed an independent advocate to provide the lead for survivor care, support and engagement. If anyone wishes to contact her, please contact the DSA team as above.

We recognise that this option may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the Church. A dedicated telephone helpline, operating independently from the Church, has therefore been set up for those affected by

issues which may arise as a result of PCR2. The number is 0800 80 20 20 – ‘Past Cases Review 2 NSPCC Helpline for Children and Adults’.

Request: If you are able to communicate this message through any parish newsletters, emails, local links, media contacts that you have could you please do this. It is important that we empower people to feel confident to speak out.

Other organisations that can assist

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’ 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/>

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](tel:080088088141) (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm)
- **Child-line:** [0800 1111](tel:08001111) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything
- **Cruse:** [0800 808 1677](tel:08008081677) bereavement helpline
- **MACSAS: Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors.** [0808 801 0340](tel:08088010340) support for those abused by ministers, clergy or others under the guise of the church
- **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline:** [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline:** [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.
- **NAPAC: National Association for People Abused in Childhood.** [0808 801 0331](tel:08088010331). Support for adults abused as children
- **Samaritans Helpline:** [08457 90 90 90](tel:08457909090) (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.
- **Stop It Now:** [0808 1000 900](tel:08081000900) preventing child sexual abuse
- **Survivors Trust:** [01788 550554](tel:01788550554). Support for men who have experienced sexual assault or rape

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



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING UPDATE



Safeguarding training is not something that's put upon us, but is an integral part of our faith - responding well to those whose experience has been difficult or painful is what Jesus did and so we should seek to follow him and do that too.

Face-to-face training has currently been halted. On-line training of the Basic (C0) training and Foundation (C1) training is still available.

Our National Safeguarding Team have provided the following advice:

We advise that dioceses cancel their face to face safeguarding training in line with government advice, and that this may cause a problem for some clergy and church officers who need to complete it. We are aware that the normal requirements mean that clergy and church officers are required to undertake various levels of training. Those in leadership positions are required to complete either the Leadership Module (C2) or the Senior Leadership Module (C4) which are face to face modules.

Our advice to you (checked with legal colleagues) is that where a member of clergy or church officer has not been able to undertake the appropriate safeguarding training because of cancellations due to the virus, this constitutes a cogent reason why the House of Bishops guidance to have due regard to the need for safeguarding training to be completed for certain roles, has not been followed. In other words, it is acceptable for clergy to continue to minister and church officers to undertake their roles, if they have either not done the training or not completed further training within the required time period, due to the impact of the virus. Records should be kept of who this applies to, to demonstrate the cogent reason, and they should attend the training as soon as possible when available.

The Basic and Foundation courses therefore remain available online and we recommend that all clergy and church officers who are not able to access face to face training undertake this.

For those of you who would like to read the policies:

- Diocesan safeguarding training strategy for 2020 -2022 here it is:



Diocesan and
Cathedral Training Str

- The more detailed NST policy can be found here: <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/safeguarding/toolkit-spg-9.pdf>
- For all training dates and information click here: <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/training/training>

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 Karen Setchfield know if you are new to your role or your role has changed: karen.setchfield@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. Your local authority offers free safeguarding training, look on their websites to see if there is anything of interest to you
6. Watch this space, I am relooking at the safeguarding policy that churches can adopt so that it reflects the Parish Safeguarding Handbook (thanks to the Rev. Adrian Holdstock and his team for helping shape the way this will look)

THANK YOU



TAKING CARE OF YOURSELVES, YOURS AND OTHERS

Thank you for your continued support and for embedding safeguarding practices to make our churches safe.

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