

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Please let Karen Setchfield know if your role has changed.
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This is the October edition of our safeguarding newsletter. The Coronavirus pandemic is causing all of us to review our priorities and has added a whole new dimension to the concept of “safeguarding”, making us all the more mindful of the need to care for ourselves and for one another physically, mentally and emotionally. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

Since lockdown and the restrictions we face we have found new ways of caring for each other. Good neighbour schemes have emerged, we clapped in the street for our NHS and front line staff and put rainbow signs in our windows. We have had to become used to lockdown as the new ‘norm’, to greater working and studying at home, to the wearing of face masks and keeping our social distance, to being restricted as to when we can meet up with our wider family and friends and to the joy of taking part in meetings on Zoom or equivalent. Many churches moved to conducting worship online and have produced deeply moving acts of worship, which have continued as churches began to reopen safely.

As we move into Autumn, emotions are high and our new way of living continues to be an emotional roller coaster, which we journey on together. We look to more uncertainty and confusion: localised lockdown measures; three tiers of lockdown to try and curb the spread of the virus as well as other advice are being provided. The phrase ‘Hands, Face, Space’ becoming part of our vocabulary.

This month saw the IICSA report being published and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York (Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell) saying it would be a “very harrowing time” for those who have suffered at the hands of the Church. ***“We are truly sorry for the shameful way the Church has acted and we state our commitment to listen, to learn and to act in response to the report’s findings.”***

Safeguarding within our Diocese continues to be a priority and is at the heart of our Christian faith. This newsletter will now cover: IICSA, Safer Spaces, Safeguarding Training and Past Case Review 2.

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (IICSA)



You may remember in May 2019, IICSA published its report into the Anglican Church based on its case studies of the Diocese of Chichester and the response to allegations against the former Bishop of Gloucester, Peter Ball. *The 252-page [report](#) makes 5 recommendations about a range of issues.*

On 06/10/2020, the overarching report from the IICSA enquiry into the Anglican Church in England and Wales was published. The [154 page report](#) makes six principal recommendations for the Church of England about a range of issues including the Church's response to victims and survivors, which is an absolute priority.

The report has highlighted that the Church paid “excessive attention” to the alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse in contrast to that given to the victims. The report gives multiple detailed examples of clerics whose position and reputation were prioritised over proper consideration of the serious allegations against them from victims, including children. ***“The culture of the Church of England facilitated it becoming a place where abusers could hide.”***

The report makes shocking reading and while apologies will never take away the effects of abuse on victims and survivors, the whole Church must learn lessons from this Inquiry. We must:

Listen to what the report says

Learn from mistakes made and

Act on the recommendations made in order to do things better

You can see the National Church's response to the report: [Response](#) from lead safeguarding bishop and national director of safeguarding [Personal statement](#) from Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bishop Donald also made the following statement: *We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that we take safeguarding seriously in the Diocese of Peterborough. Our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Team, Bev Huff and Samantha Jackson, have previously worked as detectives in the police, and have vast experience in safeguarding matters. They are here to listen, hear, support and to refer matters to the police and appropriate local authorities, whom we have excellent working arrangements with. We are also aware of the courage and bravery it takes for survivors to come forward, knowing that the effects of their abuse are with them for life.*

He and the DSA also conducted a radio interview with Martin Heath from BBC Radio Northamptonshire to deliver key messages that, as a Diocese: we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously, to provide reassurance to our communities on how we manage safeguarding matters; we recruit people safely and to outline the great things we are doing within and across our Diocese. This interview was broadcast on 11/10/2020.

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If you have been affected by this report or have a safeguarding concern, or if you would like more information regarding safeguarding, please visit <http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding>.

There is also an independent helpline - 0800 80 20 20 - run by the NSPCC for victims and survivors who may wish to speak to someone outside the structures of the Church.

Another option of support is Safe Spaces and this is detailed within the next section of the newsletter.

**Please feel free to communicate this as you deem appropriate.**

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## **SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF CHURCH RELATED ABUSE**



Safe Spaces is a free, national support service independently run by Victim Support. It provides a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Safe Spaces comprises a team of trained support advocates, who are Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and who have received additional specific training in how the churches respond to abuse cases, the way in which faith and church-related settings have been used to carry out abuse, and the particular issues affecting people who have had or still have, a relationship with the church.

The service provides remote support through their helpline, live chat service and website and is for anyone who feels they have experienced church related abuse of any form in relation to the Church of England, Catholic Church in England and Wales or the Church in Wales.

By 'church related', this may include:

- Abuse by a church officer. *A church officer is any person, ordained or lay, paid or voluntary, who holds a role in the church*
- Abuse that is linked to participating in a church-led activity or group

The service is for people 18 or over who live in England and Wales. Survivors do not have to have reported the incident to the Church authorities or the Police in order to access support, and you do not need to be a current active member of the church in order to access support.

**Diana Fawcett, Chief Executive of Victim Support, said:** 'The importance of specialist services for victims of faith-based abuse cannot be understated. Those affected by sexual, physical or psychological abuse face increased risk of mental health problems, and are often denied justice.'

Where trauma is compounded by disbelief, it is vital that victims can access specialist services completely anonymously and independently from the police or any faith-based institution. We welcome the introduction of this much-needed specialist service, and recognise the importance of input from survivors in the design and delivery of trauma-informed support.'

**The Bishop of Southampton, Debbie Sellin, deputy lead bishop coordinating support for survivors, said:** 'I am very much looking forward to working with Victim Support as Safe Spaces develops providing vital support and advice to survivors.'

Please refer to the Safe Spaces website for further information on the Safe Spaces service and eligibility. You can contact the Safe Spaces team by:

- Tel: [0300 303 1056](tel:03003031056) (answerphone available outside of opening times)
- Email: [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)
- LiveChat: [www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk](http://www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk)
- Website: [www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk](http://www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk)

Please share this information in your messages to your church communities



## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



On-line safeguarding training for Basic (C0) and Foundation (C1) modules are still available. To complete the training this way: 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.

Safer Recruitment Training (S1) will be available soon as a Zoom training session. The DSA is just preparing the training material and briefing a Volunteer trainer in how the module could look. Keep an eye out on our training page to see when the sessions are available. <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/training/training>



During COVID-19 restrictions, face-to-face training is not an option at the moment. To address this the National Safeguarding Team (NST) developed a Virtual Leadership (C2) training module, with new training material.

The NST have now provided all Dioceses with the Virtual Safeguarding Leadership (C2) training module and new training material. **Of note:** There have been many discussions about this at various meetings as the training was to take over 2 months for someone to complete their training and then receive their certificate. The DSA presented a business case to the Bishops Management Group (BMG), highlighting strengths and weaknesses of the proposed training and an alternative option. The option still used the new material but in a shorter time frame. This was unanimously approved by the BMG and at our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP).

The DSA team have now delivered several of these training sessions via Zoom over the last couple of months, other dates have been arranged and further dates will be coming. *Thank you to the groups who signed up for the training and engaged so positively and provided great feedback to help shape future training sessions and for also being patient with the IT skillset of the DSA team (what IT skills you might ask!!!).*

Alongside this the NST are 'aiming to move away from safeguarding training being seen as an event to attend and tick a box that it has been attended, to being seen as an ongoing journey of safeguarding learning'.



***As Leaders, if you haven't completed Church of England / Diocesan safeguarding training in the last three years (2017 -2019) you will have to complete Basic Awareness (C0) and Foundation training (C1) first***

### **As a Leader, how do I sign up to the Virtual Leadership training?**

- Sign up to the training by looking at the training dates and then contact Sharon Welbourne via email: [Sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)
- She will require your full name, email address, church role and whether you hold a Bishops License or if you are a Volunteer
- Some pre-attendance work is required by participants prior to the training session. Once you have signed up to the training session you will receive an email from Sharon, containing all the information at least a week before the training date. Check your Spam if you do not see this in your in-box
- **Due to the pre-course work: You will need to sign up to the training at least 2 weeks prior to the training date (in extenuating circumstances 1 weeks' notice will be considered)**

Here is the link to the safeguarding training information and dates:

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

### **What does the pre-attendance work and new training material consist of?**

- Don't panic, the pre-attendance work involves:
  - Answering 4 safeguarding questions and returning the responses to Sharon Welbourne two days before the training session
  - Reading a Parish checklist so that you are aware of what your parish should be doing in relation to safeguarding – and be able to challenge where the parish is not doing this
  - Reading the first part of a case study and note some answers to the questions ready for group discussions on the day
  - Reading the 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy
  - **NB – if your answers to the 4 safeguarding questions aren't returned before the training then you cannot participate in the training. When we receive the completed answers we will then send the Zoom invite to the training session**
- During the training session the second part of the case study will be emailed to you for you to read and promote further discussion (we don't want to spoil the suspense by giving you the outcome right from the outset)

- The training material is aimed to explore of what effective leadership behaviour looks like in respect of safeguarding
- The case study is aimed to explore how to respond effectively to a safeguarding disclosure

### What happens after the training session finishes?

- At the conclusion of the training session participants will be sent an email containing:
  - A Reflection and Learning Goals pro-forma, which is completed and returned to Sharon Welbourne
  - Those who hold a Bishops Licence will also be asked to read Psalm 91 Read and write a short reflection on how this informs your safeguarding leadership beliefs. *This option will be offered to volunteers should they wish to have their own reflection process*
  - Once these have been returned your certificate will be provided and our records updates that you have completed the training
  - The DSA will dip-sample the returns and contact participants to see how they have embedded the goals they have set themselves and also obtain further feedback about the training process
- You will also be asked to:
  - Watch the BBC documentary Exposed: The Churches Darkest Secret and the ink and password to access this will be provided



### **DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER**

Information from your DSA team: This is a new direction of travel being proposed by our NST regarding safeguarding training. By us delivering the new training material we can then gain feedback of the strengths and areas of improvement, which we can then share with the NST. This will help to shape how the future training will look.

Safeguarding training should be part and parcel of Leaders day to day oversight of safeguarding within their church roles and is an on-going responsibility. This change in training will impact on the capacity of the DSA team, which will not have additional resources to employ a safeguarding trainer. To address this a safeguarding training sub group has been set up to discuss this change of culture to safeguarding training and how this can become embedded within the Diocese.

Core safeguarding training is refreshed every three years and it is an individual's responsibility to know when their training is due. The DSA team are working with staff from the Bishops Office to identify when those who hold a Bishop's license are due their safeguarding refresher training. Training dates will be set up to ensure

there are sufficient training dates to address the numbers required, this is on top of the training dates that have already been set for the next few years. Please be patient as we are all adapting to this new training programme and cultural change takes time.

**If you feel anxious or troubled about the leadership training then please let [Bev Huff](#) or [Samantha Jackson](#) know so that they can speak with you about your concerns.**

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## **PAST CASE REVIEW 2**



In 2007, the Church of England commissioned a Past Case Review, which sought to look at the handling by the Church of child protection cases over many years. This entailed an independent scrutiny of the files of clergy and church officers to identify any persons presenting on-going risks to children and young people (a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18) which had not been acted on appropriately. The House of Bishops wanted to ensure that our churches and church-related activities were as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults. All Dioceses have therefore been asked to extend the review in 2019 to include children, young people and vulnerable adults. This process is called **Past Case Review 2 (PCR2)**.

The PCR2 process was welcomed by the Diocese of Peterborough, and the Bishop of Peterborough sent letters to all parishes asking incumbents to check that all-known instances within their parish, both recent and non-recent, had been notified to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), Bev Huff. For those parishes in vacancy the Rural Dean for the area was written to. The DSA also wrote to all statutory partner leads for the three local authority areas we work with, to inform them of the process and to identify points of contacts.

PCR2 was a central part of the Diocese of Peterborough's proactive approach to identifying any occasions where abuse allegations have not been managed appropriately or safely, or with the needs of the vulnerable at the centre of its decision making.

In September 2019 and August 2020, Independent Reviewers (IR's) – selected for the role by the National Safeguarding Team – reviewed files held within the Diocese. The IR's responsibility was to inform the DSA immediately if they identified any issues that required action to:

- mitigate risk
- report offences to the police
- report concerns to the local authority or another body
- provide support to an individual who has previously asked for help, and where there is no evidence that appropriate support was offered

The process is now complete and a closing report has been submitted to the National Safeguarding PCR2 project team. Within the report the Diocese of Peterborough has been identified as being an example of good practice in safeguarding. Safeguarding in our Diocese is a team effort so a big thank you to everyone who takes safeguarding seriously and helps in making our churches the safest.

The welfare of children or of adults at risk of abuse is of paramount importance in the execution of our PCR2. 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 you feel it would be easier to email, then please contact:

[bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk) or [samantha.jackson@peterborough.org.uk](mailto:samantha.jackson@peterborough.org.uk)

The Diocese of Peterborough has also appointed an independent advocate to provide the lead for survivor care, support and engagement. If you wish 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'.

People can also contact Safe Spaces, as detailed within the newsletter.

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## **NOTIFICATION FOR SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS**



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.

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

### **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 Karen Setchfield know if you are new to your role or your role has changed: [karen.setchfield@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:karen.setchfield@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. Your Local Authority will have free safeguarding training available – please look on their website for sessions that might be of interest

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## **THANK YOU**



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, it is about teamwork and working together internally and externally with others. 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)