

'Safer'

Safeguarding is Everyone's
Responsibility –
Building a Safer Church

National Safeguarding Team



The Church of England's National Safeguarding
Team Newsletter – **Summer 2015 2nd Edition**

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This newsletter is primarily written for Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors, but parts of it will be relevant for Diocesan Secretaries, senior staff within dioceses as well as Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Foreword by Bishop Paul Butler, the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding in the Church of England

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We all want every single one of our churches to be safer places and communities for all people; notably for children and adults at times of risk and harm, whether that be long or short term.

We all recognise that we have a long journey still ahead of us in developing ever safer churches. Alongside having to recognise, apologise for, and face up to the consequences of past failures we also have to acknowledge that we do not always get it right in the present. Individuals determined to abuse will groom leaders, and whole congregations in order to work their way into an abusive situation. Our emphasis has to be on prevention. So high quality training, safe recruiting at every level of church life and effective quality assurance are all high on the list of work being undertaken at a national level and need to be implemented at every level of church life.

We have to be primarily about developing a culture in our churches that recognises safeguarding is a gospel issue because it is about human wellbeing and wholeness. We have to develop a culture that is both welcoming of all and in such a way that it is safe for all. This has to be about our day to day, week by week practice in our parishes. Awareness, vigilance, care all matter.

+Paul

Extract from Speech at General Synod, July 2015



Towards a Safer Church Transformation Plan 2015-18



The *Towards a Safer Church Transformation Plan*, started in 2013, is now under review, led by the National Safeguarding Team. The Plan contained 3 strategic objectives:

- To implement a new safeguarding governance structure for the Church of England which will manage the delivery of the *Towards a Safer Church Transformation Plan* and integrate safeguarding into the DNA of the Church.
- To develop and implement policies and systems to respond effectively, fairly and sensitively to children, young people and adults who have been abused, or are at risk of abuse
- To implement safe working practices across the Church of England and develop core policies and protocols.

"And so the actions that we are developing must be ones that are persistent. We cannot, in twenty years, be finding ourselves having this same debate and saying 'Well we didn't quite understand then.' There has to be a complete change of culture and behaviour."

Archbishop of Canterbury, Justine Welby, 2013

The Most Revd. And Rt. Hon

As well as build stronger foundations towards a 'safer church' in the short to medium term, we also need to develop a long-term vision and strategy to more effectively embed safeguarding throughout the Church. Safeguarding needs to be seen as an essential part of who we are and what we believe in. This has to include not only our theology, but also our culture.

How can you contribute to the review?

A series of discussions will take place in the autumn, and beyond to enable individuals to contribute to

- What should our vision for safeguarding be?
- What should our immediate safeguarding priorities be over the coming year to 18 months?
- Where should the Church of England be on safeguarding in 5 years and 10 years' time?
- What does cultural change on safeguarding look like within the Church of England?
- What does a 'safer church' look like?
- What contribution should the Church make to debates on safeguarding in the wider safeguarding community, as well as in public policy and the media?

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

The statutory inquiry was formally opened on 9 July 2015 and is likely to run for several years. A separate Briefing Note has been prepared by Heather Reid, National Safeguarding Policy Manager to advise dioceses on how best to consider preparing for the Inquiry alongside planning taking place in the national context – for more information contact heather.reid@churchofengland.org

NATIONAL CONTEXT



National Safeguarding Policies & Practice Guidance

The complete list of current national safeguarding policy and practice guidance is as follows:

[Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations \(2015\)](#)

[Risk Assessment for Individuals who may Pose Risk to Children or Adults \(2015\)](#)

[Safer Recruitment \(2015\)](#)

[Safeguarding in Religious Communities \(2015\)](#)

The following pieces are approved jointly with the Methodist Church:

[Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church \(2015\)](#)

[Safeguarding Guidance for Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships \(2015\)](#)

[Promoting a Safe Church \(safeguarding policy for adults\) 2006](#) to be revised and combined with 'Protecting All God's Children' as a single safeguarding policy

[Protecting All God's Children \(safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th edition, 2010\)](#) to be revised and combined with 'Promoting a Safe Church' as a single safeguarding policy

[Responding Well to those who have been sexually abused \(2011\)](#) to be revised as Practice Guidance

[Responding to Domestic Abuse \(guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility, 2006\)](#) to be revised as Practice Guidance

All of the above policy and practice guidance can be found on the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/protecting-and-safeguarding-children-and-adults-who-are-vulnerable/safeguarding-policy-statements-practice-guidance.aspx>

A Policy Working Group is now being established to oversee the revision of policy and practice guidance annually and will report directly to the House of Bishops Safeguarding Monitoring & Reference Sub-Group. It is envisaged that the revised policy and practice guidance will be circulated for consultation in January 2016, for a period of 8 weeks, with the aim of finalising for the May 2016 House of Bishops.

If you have any queries please contact heather.reid@churchofengland.org



National Safeguarding Learning & Development Framework

New draft practice guidance will be circulated by the end of July for an 8 week consultation period, accompanied by a summary evaluation report from the pilots and a set of consultation questions. The framework outlines

- ▶ **Overview of rationale for national approach**
- ▶ **Church of England context**
- ▶ **Shared Aims, objectives & learning goals for modules**
- ▶ **Who needs training by role**
- ▶ **Phased implementation of strategy**

For more information please contact jill.sandham@churchofengland.org

Quality Assurance Pilots

Four dioceses – Blackburn, Durham, Salisbury and Portsmouth - will take part in the quality assurance audit pilots. An evaluation will form the roll-out of the audits from 2016. The pilot audits are being undertaken by SCIE – the Social Care Institute for Excellence. The audit programme for 2016 is expected to be published in the early autumn. For more information please contact heather.reid@churchofengland.org

Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Legislation

On 11 July 2015, the General Synod gave final approval to a series of provisions intended to help make the Church a safer place for children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect. The changes aim to make the Clergy Discipline Measure more effective and strengthen the Church's wider legal framework in relation to safeguarding. The proposed legislative changes and timescales were summarised within the Spring 2015 Safer newsletter. It is hoped to bring the legislation onto force later next year. *For more information contact* Stephen.york@churchofengland.org

Review of 'The Seal of Confession'

The Working Group to review the Proviso of the Canon of 1603 has now commenced its work, which will take the form of three key strands of activity – legal review, theological review and practice review.

From a practice perspective, we are looking for safeguarding practitioners, survivors and perpetrators who are prepared to share their experience of Confession in a safeguarding context, either individually or as part of focus groups. These will take place during the autumn.

If you have had experience as a safeguarding professional in a case that has involved the use of The Seal of Confession, then we would like to hear from you.

If you are working with a survivor who is prepared to share their experience of how he/she or someone else used the practice of Confession as part of their story, then please consider talking to them about engaging in this review process.

For more information contact graham.tilby@churchofengland.org

Safe Spaces Pilot Project

We are in the process of establishing an independently funded and managed Safe Spaces Project, which consists of three pilot services:

- Helpline
- One-to-one counselling
- Peer facilitated group work

An independently chaired Management Board will be established to oversee the development and monitoring of the project on behalf of the Church of England.

A briefing paper will be sent to Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors for information. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact graham.tilby@churchofengland.org

DIOCESAN CONTEXT



Diary Dates

**Next DSA Day –
7 October 2015,
Lambeth Palace**

'Learning from Practice'

The next DSA Day will focus on learning from practice, particularly casework concerning serious safeguarding situations related to church officers. This will be an action learning style event, aimed at identifying ways to improve our protection and response.

If you are interested in presenting a case for discussion, please contact me. This will involve presenting a brief overview of the case (anonymised) and learning points that you have identified for parish, diocesan or national practice, particularly those relevant to improving practice guidance or training.

The session will also include survivors' perspectives as well as an opportunity to reflect on future visioning. For more information contact graham.tilby@churchofengland.org



If you have any comments about how this newsletter can be improved or would like to contribute an article to the next edition in Autumn 2015, please contact graham.tilby@churchofengland.org

'Changing Culture'

**Joint National Safeguarding
Conference –**

**2 - 4 February 2016,
Radisson Hotel, West Bromwich**

The themes of our joint National Safeguarding Conference with the Methodist Church will be 'Changing Culture'. This reflects the importance of changing our culture within and interacting with changing culture outside the Church.

The Conference is open to all Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors and Chairs of Diocesan Safeguarding Panels. There will be limited places available, so please look out for the flier and confirmation of booking arrangements.

For information in the meantime, please contact grahame.solutions@gmail.com

Chairs of Diocesan Safeguarding Panels

Thank you to those of you who completed and returned the Skills Survey. We will produce a summary of the results shortly. I would like to invite you to attend a half-day session at Lambeth Palace to discuss how the national safeguarding team can best work with you to support you in the very important work that you do on behalf of the dioceses.

21 October 2015

11am – 3pm
Lambeth Palace

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