

safeguarding

a pocket guide



**What to do if you
have a concern
about a child,
young person
or adult within
the Church**

Promoting a Safer Church

Mission

The Gospel speaks of welcome for all, especially the most vulnerable, into a Church which affirms the value and dignity of every human and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

Being faithful to this therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.

From Promoting a Safer Church, the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement

**For further information, guidance
and resources, please visit:**

www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have concerns

Children, young people and adults

If you have a concern about an individual's physical, sexual or emotional well-being, it is **your** responsibility to seek advice and support from your Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)/Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

Clergy, church wardens, volunteers or other church officers

Any safeguarding concerns or allegations about anyone in a parish role must be immediately reported to the DSO.

If you or someone close to you (e.g. a partner or someone you live with) becomes involved in any police or social services investigation, you must notify the DSO immediately.

A member of the congregation

Any safeguarding concerns or allegations must be immediately reported to the PSO/DSO. Please be assured that all matters will be dealt with confidentially by the Church and reported to the police and/or social services as required to protect those who are vulnerable from harm.

Remember

Dos and don'ts for handling a disclosure

Do

- ✓ Remain calm, approachable and receptive
- ✓ Take it seriously
- ✓ Listen carefully, without interrupting
- ✓ Acknowledge you understand how difficult this may be
- ✓ Offer reassurance – it is the right thing to tell someone
- ✓ Tell them what will happen next
- ✓ Make a written record of exactly what has been said and when
- ✓ Report

Don't

- ✗ Promise complete confidentiality
- ✗ Ask leading or probing questions
- ✗ Investigate
- ✗ Discuss with people who do not need to know
- ✗ Delay in reporting the disclosure to the PSO/DSO

Reporting concerns



Important contact numbers

Person to whom you are responsible

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Parish priest (vicar)

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Diocesan Out of Hours (after 5pm and weekends)

Local Authority (Children)

Local Authority (Adults)

In an emergency call **999**

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