

The Church of England – Birmingham Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement

The Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance agreed to adopt all of the House of Bishop's safeguarding policy and practice guidance on 16th May 2018

All forms of abuse are wrong and must stop

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

Our commitments:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture
2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
4. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
6. Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

We will implement good safeguarding practice by ensuring:

- the welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount;
- a leadership commitment, at all levels, to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- this policy statement is available to all our employees and volunteers;
- a clear line of accountability within our organisation for work on safeguarding;
- clear reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations;
- clear roles for our employees and volunteers;
- we have clear arrangements for support and/or supervision of our employees and volunteers;
- all our employees and volunteers complete safeguarding training online or delivered by a member of the diocesan safeguarding team appropriate to their role every three years;
- our practice and services are informed by on-going learning, review and by the views of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults;

- safer recruitment procedures in place;
- effective working with statutory and voluntary sector partners;
- we have publicly advertised arrangements for children, young people and vulnerable adults to be able to speak to an independent person, as required;
- our complaints and whistleblowing procedures are well publicised;
- effective information sharing;
- good record keeping.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone about a safeguarding concern or allegation please contact

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer
E: StephH@cofebirmingham.com
T: 07342 993 844

If you cannot contact the person above and someone is being harmed or is not safe and needs immediate help, dial 999, or contact social care services.

Other useful contacts:

NSPCC	help@NSPCC.org.uk
Childline	0800 1111
Family Lives Helpline	0808 800 2222
Samaritans	116 123
Hourglass - Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Men's Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 801 0327
LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 999 5428
National Association of People Abused in Childhood	0808 801 0331
Stop It Now! Helpline	0808 1000 900
Safe Spaces (when abuse was by a Church of England minister, volunteer or worker)	0300 0303 1056

Local Authority Children's Social Care Services:

0121 303 1888 (Birmingham)
0121 569 3100 (Sandwell)
0121 788 4300 (Solihull)
0800 1313 126 (Staffordshire)
01926 414144 (Warwickshire)
01905 822666 (Worcestershire)

Local Authority Adult Social Care Services:

0121 303 1234 (Birmingham)
0121 569 2266 (Sandwell)
0121 704 8007 (Solihull)
0345 604 2719 (Staffordshire)
01926 412080 (Warwickshire)
01905 768053 (Worcestershire)

Review and Revision History

7/7/2021	reviewed by Bishop's Safeguarding Management Group helpline numbers checked and updated
3/5/2022	reviewed by Bishop's Safeguarding Management Group helpline numbers checked and updated 'all our employees and volunteers working with or in contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults attend safeguarding training led by the Safeguarding Training & Development Officer every three years;' amended to 'all our employees and volunteers complete safeguarding training online or delivered by a member of the diocesan safeguarding team appropriate to their role every three years;'
24/5/2023	reviewed by Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel Helpline numbers checked and updated, Safe Spaces helpline added
22/5/2024	'Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser' amended to 'Diocesan Safeguarding Officer' reviewed by Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel – no revisions required helpline numbers checked – no revisions required