

What is the minimum that a Parish has to have in place to be compliant with Safeguarding requirements; Guide for PCC members 2016

References need to include; 1) House of Bishops directives, and Church of England Publications, 2) Ecclesiastical Insurance requirements. 3) York Diocese requirements.

Minimum Safeguarding standard; 1) You must have as a PCC a written safeguarding policy document which includes statements about what your safeguarding intentions and responsibilities are, towards both children and vulnerable adults, and some information about how you are going to go about the exercise of these.

You must have a written policy even if you do not have children attending your church/parish so that you are compliant with the Ecclesiastical insurance requirements.

You can write your own policy or acknowledge that you are signed up to the Diocesan policies.

Your Policy should include as a minimum;

- a) Social Media policy for staff and volunteers (those working with the youth)
- b) Reference to a Health and Safety policy.
- c) Risk Assessment and how you are going to carry this out linked to people, buildings and activities.
- d) Complaints response.
- e) Whistleblowing. (for anyone)
- f) Safer Recruitment practice. (appointing people to roles)
- g) Details of who are your responsible persons for safeguarding and who is your PSO/R and how to contact them to raise any

concern or report etc. (Advertise these contacts; parish notice board or other display, parish website etc)

- h) A section with regards to seeking consent and capacity considerations. (all ages)
- i) A statement about conduct and behaviours expected of those in any position of trust or who are responsible for others.
- j) A statement about the recording of and keeping/storage of safeguarding records.

Minimum Safeguarding Standard;2) You must appoint a Parish Safeguarding officer or representative. (See their Job description on the Diocesan website). Ideally also appoint a lead person on your PCC for safeguarding.

Minimum Safeguarding Standard; 3) You must ensure that all your persons whether staff or volunteers have attended safeguarding training within the last 3 years (new modular safeguarding training as delivered by the Diocese.) up to the correct level for that role/person.

Minimum Safeguarding Standard; 4) The PSO/R must provide an annual report to the Parish with regards to safeguarding issues in the Church/Parish and for these to be considered in relation to response.

Minimum Safeguarding Standard ;5) The PSO/R or incumbent must report to the DSA any safeguarding matter which reaches a potential of risk to a child or vulnerable adult or where it is suspected a crime has been committed.

Minimum Safeguarding Standard ;6) The Church/Parish should periodically Self-audit in relation to Safeguarding (or as prompted by the Diocese) to consider any safeguarding strengths or weaknesses.

DSA