



**DIOCESE OF
YORK**

Safeguarding Bulletin

4

January 2017



Welcome to our first Safeguarding Bulletin of 2017

The year began with the news of Dave Finan's decision to move on from his role as Safeguarding Adviser. We are greatly indebted to Dave for the significant impact which he has had on our approach and processes for Safeguarding. The quality of his work was reflected in the encouraging comments we received from the National Church's audit of our approach to Safeguarding back in June 2016.

The Diocese is in a much better place now because of all that Dave contributed and this leaves us in a much stronger position to cope until we are able to appoint a new Safeguarding Adviser. We plan to deliver as much of the current training schedule as possible but please bear with us as we finalise interim arrangements. Do continue to request training and we are aiming to populate a timetable for delivery from the summer term. Please see below for details of the people to contact if you need help or support on a Safeguarding matter. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you feel that you need a conversation or a word of advice.



Important Legal Changes

During February we will be communicating with all Clergy, Readers, PSRs, Churchwardens and PCC members about legal changes that will affect every parish and also changes in the way the DBS is administered and who will now be required to be checked.

There are implications for all of those named above and so we are asking every PCC to ensure that there is some time set aside at the meeting after they receive the information to consider these. One implication is that every PCC member, because they are now trustees of a charity, will have to have a DBS check. This is a considerable undertaking and to enable it to happen quicker and more smoothly, the diocese is working with a partner organisation, the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service, to provide an electronic system for churches who wish to use it. Again, more details of how this will work will follow.

So, please look out for this coming to your 'Inbox' or through your letter box at some point in February.



Training Opportunities and Safeguarding Surgeries

Dave Finan has done a very good job in getting us started on the new national Safeguarding training. As Director of Training across the diocese I have been involved in assisting in that process, and for the time being I am overseeing our Safeguarding training.

Already over 300 people across the diocese have been on the C1 module for church wardens, parish safeguarding reps, children's leaders and helpers, PCC members and so on. Over 120 clergy and Readers have been on the C3 module which deals with their responsibilities for safeguarding issues.

Feedback has included these comments:

“Feel more confident about how to handle any issues that arise and who and when to ask for help.”

“Great pace – well delivered – enjoyed the practical exercises – lots of discussion – gives food for thought.”

“Very well presented in a clear and concise manner. A morning well spent.”

We are continuing to run modules between now and Easter following the existing plan and there are a few places available on C1 modules. Contact us via events@yorkdiocese.org if you are interested.

We also welcome enquiries from parishes that would like us to run the C1 module locally. We are very grateful to a small but growing team of professionally qualified volunteers and staff in helping us put on events for you. We are working with them to respond to your requests as quickly as possible.

Dave also put on a number of informal Safeguarding surgeries, combining some input and the opportunity to bring your questions. We are continuing to run these with the help of colleagues; please contact events@yorkdiocese.org for further details.

Revd Dr Gavin Wakefield, Director of Training for Missional Ministry



Safeguarding Contacts

Safeguarding Training or Surgeries:

Please contact **Kim Phillips** on **01904 699508** or events@yorkdiocese.org. This includes any requests for locally delivered C1 training and queries about the public courses being offered over the next few months.

For Urgent Safeguarding issues or advice:

Beth Miller (DSA for Durham Diocese) is providing cover for us. She can be reached at **07968 034075** or beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk (please leave a message and she will respond as soon as she can).

If however there is concern that a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger of harm then please contact the police or social services and then keep us informed via safeguarding@yorkdiocese.org.

DBS and Safer Recruitment related matters:

Please contact **Becci Richardson** at Bishopthorpe Palace on **01904 707021** or becci.richardson@archbishopofyork.org

For any other Safeguarding matters:

The safeguarding@yorkdiocese.org email address is being monitored but there may be a delay in responding. If you would like to speak to someone about your query, or to follow up an existing issue, please contact **Kirsty McCullough** (the Diocesan Secretary's Executive Assistant) on **01904 699503**.

Alternatively please contact your Archdeacon for assistance.

