



DIOCESE OF YORK CHILD PROTECTION & VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Statement)

Updated: June 2016

Diocese of York Child Protection and Safeguarding

Definitions;

A Child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years of age who by definition is in need of protection and support.

A Vulnerable Adult is defined as anyone over the age of 18 who is "In need of support or who is at risk of harm".

Statement of Policy and Principles

- The Diocese of York is committed to the protection, safeguarding, care and nurture of all children and adults within the church community.

- The full Diocese of York Safeguarding policy (Child and Adult) is current being updated and the National Safeguarding team is due to complete a revised template by December 2016.

In the interim every Parish or Benefice must either continue its own separate Child and Adult Safeguarding policies and/or sign up to the Diocese of York policies.

- The Diocese of York will carefully select and train ordained and lay ministers, as well as volunteers and paid workers who work with children and young people, using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the highest quality safe recruitment practices, to check the background of each person.

Please view Safer Recruitment processes available on the Diocesan Website.

- a) Reference Forms (Referees)
- b) Confidential Declaration process and pro-forma
- c) Volunteer agreement form
- d) DBS requirements.

- Please view the new Modular Safeguarding Training structure available on the Diocesan Website.

The Diocese of York will expect anyone who holds a position of trust within the church to engage with the relevant Modular Safeguarding training; to their particular role/position etc (renewal of which should be 3 yearly)

- For specific safeguarding guidance and advice in respect to the following, please view the Safeguarding section on the Diocesan Website, or contact the DSA direct;

- a) Social Media policy.
- b) Photography and DVD recording policy.
- c) Volunteer Drivers/Transport of persons (where this is on behalf of the church or PCC)
- d) Whistleblowing policy
- e) Interim Complaints policy (safeguarding matters)
- f) Serious Allegations made against an employee of the church. (Person in any position of trust)
- g) Parental Consent form
- h) Room hire and arrangements in safeguarding related to external partners and users.
- i) Risk Assessment form.
- j) Logging/reporting a concern.
- k) Having regard to the Children Act 1989 (and subsequent updates)
- l) Having regard to the Care Act 2014
- m) Advice about working with known offenders.
- n) Supports for survivors of abuse.

- The Diocese of York will respond without delay to every complaint or allegation made that a child or young person is a risk of, or has suffered, harm.

- Following the response and guidance from the House of Bishops and as endorsed by the National Safeguarding Team for the Church of England.
- The Diocese of York will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation they make into allegations of abuse or neglect concerning a member of the church community.
- The Diocese of York will work to ensure that each Parish/Benefice has an appointed Parish Safeguarding Representative (or equivalent person) in place to co-ordinate safeguarding response.
- The Diocese of York will work to ensure that each Parish/Benefice has an up to date Safeguarding policy in respect to Children and Adults.
- The Diocese of York will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse. (Contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor for further information)
 - Identified “Listeners” for survivors.
 - Signposting to specialist statutory or other services as appropriate.
- The Diocese of York will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, working alongside statutory agencies as appropriate.
 - Risk Assessment responses.
 - Safeguarding Agreement/contract.
 - Supports of the individual and restrictions as considered appropriate (as may be agreed with external services and partners)
- The Diocese of York recognises in all its work that the welfare of children is paramount, and that vulnerable adults have a right to be safeguarded and supported.

In order to ensure that this policy is put into practice across the Diocese of York it is helpful to use the procedures and guidelines that have been developed to support the policy. Please refer to **Diocese of York Child Protection and Safeguarding – Making the Policy Work** where you will find a range of useful information and materials. www.dioceseofyork.org or phone the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser on 01904 699500 (Safeguarding@yorkdiocese.org)