

Policy Statement for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults

for the Parish of Chittlehampton with UMBERLEIGH

(St Hieritha's and Church of the Good Shepherd)

The legal responsibility for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults rests with the PCC and the incumbent. However, this policy will be available to and 'owned' by the whole Church Community, since it will take everyone's involvement to implement it effectively.

1. The Parochial Church Council of Chittlehampton with UMBERLEIGH formally adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy of May 2014 (now superseded by the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement of Oct 2017) as the overarching document on September 23 2016.
2. The following policy statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on September 23 2016 and was confirmed at their meeting on May 22, 2019.
'As members of the PCC we commit our church community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable. We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community. We are fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures. We will also act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Services and other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. We welcome staff and volunteers who are recruited in accordance with House of Bishops' Guidelines on Safer Recruitment . This means we will ensure that those who are employed or who volunteer to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are suitable for the role, that they know what the role entails and that they are supported in carrying it out.'
3. The PCC understands that its community may now or at some time contain children and adults who are vulnerable as defined in the Diocesan Safeguarding policy document. Vulnerable children and adults may be present in our congregation, children's group(s), youth groups, social groups and the wider community. Whereas the risks are thought to be low, the PCC accepts that there is no room for complacency on the part of volunteers or the wider community.
4. In recruiting support staff and volunteers who work with vulnerable people the PCC will follow the guidance contained in The Diocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement of Oct 2017. All support staff and volunteers will be appropriately vetted, trained and supervised. All will be conversant with the Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.
5. All support staff and volunteers will be encouraged to attend a safeguarding familiarization course every three years. As a minimum requirement, all support staff and volunteers will meet with the Parish Safeguarding Officer to be fully briefed on Safeguarding policy and associated issues.
6. All support staff and volunteers will be issued with the Diocesan flow chart of what to do in the event that they have concerns about a vulnerable child or adult.

7. The PCC understands that any community member may meet any of the following scenarios:
 - a. a child/vulnerable adult may disclose something that has upset or harmed them
 - b. someone else might report something that a child/vulnerable adult has told them, or that they believe that a child/vulnerable adult has been or is being harmed
 - c. a child/vulnerable adult might show signs of physical injury for which there appears to be no explanation
 - d. a child/vulnerable adult's behaviour may suggest he or she is being abused
 - e. the behaviour or attitude of someone towards a child/vulnerable adult may cause concern
 - f. a child demonstrates worrying behaviour towards other children.

In order to respond to all of these, and other, situations the details of statutory agencies, the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Incumbent and other contact details are permanently displayed on the Church notice board. The normal first course of action will be to discuss the matter with the Incumbent/Parish Safeguarding Officer as appropriate.

The PCC commits to co-operate fully with the Diocese and appropriate statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

8. Where an allegation is made The Parish Safeguarding Officers and/or incumbent will immediately take advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and act in concert with him/her in order to provide for the provision of pastoral care to children and vulnerable adults and their families and to any member of the church community against whom such allegation is made.

9. Similarly, the Parish will act in partnership with the Diocese and other agencies, to provide (where it is possible and safe to do so) care and supervision for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.

10. Within the PCC and the parish the following hold formal responsibilities for safeguarding:

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Averil Stacey and Colin Dring

Appointed by the PCC on 4th April 2019

This policy will be reviewed by the PCC on an annual basis.

Signed on behalf of Chitttenhampton & Umberleigh PCC

 19 - June - 2019

Incumbent & PCC Chair.

Documents that are displayed in the Church:

- Safeguarding and contact details including the Child line number.
- A flowchart with advice on responding to concerns about a child or adult at risk
- The Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding policies are kept in the Vestry. Please see the Incumbent of a Church Warden to obtain the copy.

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Representative (s).

This can be a shared role if required.

Ideally the person(s) fulfilling the role will be

- Approachable, discreet and trustworthy
- A good listener
- Able to keep confidentiality and to know when information needs to be shared.
- Non judgemental.

The role requires close co-operation with the incumbent of the parish. Training and support will be available from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

The person(s) appointed is/are accountable to the PCC

Specifically the representative will:

- be familiar with policies and procedures
- ensure that the policy is implemented and annually reviewed.
- contribute to the appointment of voluntary and paid workers by ensuring that necessary safeguarding recruitment procedures are followed.
- ensure that DBS checks are made where necessary.
- ensure that all Church activities are within diocesan guidelines
- keep records as appropriate
- be the first point of referral (with the incumbent) in any case of concern.

The role of the Children's Officer.

A Children's Advocate is someone to whom children and young people can talk about any problems, if they so wish, and who can refer matters of concern to the parish safeguarding representative or incumbent if necessary.