

Safeguarding: 'Promoting a Safer Church' Action Plan 2023-24

Safeguarding relates to both children and adults and is the responsibility of everyone

Benefice: Witney

Incumbent: Toby Wright

Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Alison Spicer

Deputy Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Sarah-Jane Ebanja

Date completed: 30th April 2023 Review: 30th April 2024

In 2017 the Church of England published a safeguarding policy statement entitled *Promoting a Safer Church*. This states that all church bodies should ensure that they:

'have a 'Promoting a Safer Church' action plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed.'

Safeguarding Action Plan 2023-4

Foundations

PCC to approve the Action Plan and Safeguarding Policy, including procedures to deal with concerns or allegations.
All church officers should be aware of this policy and plan.

Ensure Safeguarding 'Who's Who' and policy posters are in date and displayed in all churches and on website.
Each church must have 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster clearly on display.

Safeguarding arrangements must be clearly visible on the front page of the parish website.

Safeguarding is a standing item on PCC and DCC agendas, PSO to report regularly.
Safeguarding should be reported annually at APCM.

People

Training: All Churchwardens and Deputy wardens should be DBS checked.
All Church wardens/Deputy wardens/PCC/DCC members must complete Basic, foundation and domestic abuse training
All group (eg music leaders) leaders and helpers should undertake training as appropriate every 3 years

PCC should appoint a benefice safeguarding officer, not related to incumbent, using 'Safer recruitment' guidelines.
This person should complete Basic, Foundation, Leadership, Domestic abuse and Safe People Management training

PCC should appoint a DBS administrator (can be PSO) to ensure all checks are done, must complete Safe people management training. All leaders and helpers should be dbS checked every 3 years as needed

Recruitment: PCC should ensure all appointments are made using safer recruitment guidelines and that training is undertaken as needed. Monitored by PSO/DBS administrator using confidential spreadsheet

For recruitment of ex-offenders the Diocesan policy is used.

Activities

All church activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults must be brought to PCC for authorisation.

Online activities should be monitored in accordance with the Diocesan policy

Risk assessments for all activities must be in place, PCC will ensure appropriate insurance cover is in place where necessary

Hiring agreements for external groups should be reviewed to check their safeguarding arrangements

When completed, this document is saved in the Witney Benefice HUB.