

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Diocesan Safeguarding Team 024 7652 1345

Diocesan Safeguarding Team safeguarding@covcofe.org

Link to protocol and practice guidance on PCR 2

www.dioceseofcoventry.org/Safeguarding/PCR2



DIOCESE OF COVENTRY PAST CASES REVIEW 2 INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR CLERGY

In 2007, the Church of England commissioned a Past Case Review which sought to look at the handling by the church of child protection cases over many years. This entailed an independent scrutiny of the files of clergy and church officers to identify any persons presenting on-going risks to children and young people (a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18) which had not been acted on appropriately. All Dioceses have now been asked to re-examine and extend the review. The House of Bishops wants to ensure that our churches and church related activities are as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults. It is important that all known cases of concern about the behaviour of clergy and church officers towards children and vulnerable adults have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

This is what you need to do:

- Check your parish records for **all known incidents** of concern about the behaviour of church officers within your parishes both non-recent and current and ensure that these have been reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA).
- Complete the attached Table 1A for each parish (we cannot accept one form for the whole benefice), detailing all known cases of concern.
- Report any previously unreported incidents to the DSA immediately.
- Complete the attached declaration for each parish (we cannot accept one form for the whole benefice).
- Send a completed Table 1A and signed declaration for each parish to The Diocesan Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@covcofe.org by **30th November 2019**.

This is obviously a sensitive task which may require looking at parish records and making some discreet enquiries. Where it appears that there is a past concern, details of which are not known, it may be appropriate to consult a previous incumbent if possible to obtain fuller details.

Please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 02476 521 345 (option 2) or safeguarding@covcofe.org if you need advice or help with this.

Information is sought on persons who have or have had a role in the Church—Church Officers where their role brings them into contact with children or with adults at risk of abuse.

A church officer is: anyone appointed or elected by or on behalf of the church to an office, post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid. This includes all clergy, including retired clergy and those with PTO, readers, and all lay parish employees and volunteers.

Information is not being requested on worshippers and those attending church activities who do not hold formal office in the Church such as persons subject to safeguarding agreements. Protective measures should have been installed in such cases. **The advice of the DSA should be sought in any instances of doubt.**

Please ensure that all records that the parish holds on Church Officers (safeguarding and pastoral) are checked. The following behaviours or information should have been referred to the DSA, we need you to report this again now by completing Table 1A.

- Behaviour which has harmed, may have harmed or is likely to harm a child or vulnerable adult, including neglect.
- Possible commission of a criminal offence against or related to a child, including the viewing, downloading or possession of indecent images of children.
- Possible commission of a criminal offence against or related to an adult.
- Behaviour which indicates that the person is unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults.
- More than one low level concern which would not, taken individually, meet the threshold for referral but taken together would justify further exploration.
- Allegations of sexual behaviour or relationships with young people over the age of 16 who later say they gave consent and which have not led to prosecution or a caution.
- Cases where victims have reported abuse, but it has subsequently lacked foundation.

These behaviours may include: physical, sexual, emotional and domestic abuse, neglect, discrimination, theft, fraud, and financial exploitation.

Advice on whether a particular circumstance should be reported may be obtained from the DSA.

Please ensure that everything that is relevant and currently known is included on Table 1A. Further information that may emerge in future must be promptly referred to the DSA.

Report any previously unreported incidents to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team **immediately** by telephone 02476 521 345 or by e-mail safeguarding@covcofe.org