

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT TO APCM

20th/21st/22nd July 2021

Policies and practice

The clergy and PCCs of the benefice continue to meet the requirement to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Whilst safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting, the Rector and the PSO are considering how the its profile may be raised in the future to ensure safeguarding continues to be promoted effectively, whilst maintaining a proportionate balance with other important parish business.

All safeguarding policies were updated and approved in December 2020 at the Joint PCC meeting. They are all in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and meet statutory requirements whilst remaining relevant to our particular context. The next reviews will be in December 2021.

Recently, the Rector and PSO have undertaken a benefice safeguarding audit. This showed that in the vast majority of criteria, the benefice has policy and practice fully in place. There are a few small tweaks which need to be addressed in the area of risk assessments.

Safer recruitment

The online system for DBS clearance is now established. All current PCC members have received their clearance and applications for new members will start following the ACPMs this week. In addition, there are a few members who will need to renew their DBS in the coming months.

Currently, there are no other volunteers who require DBS clearance, but this is always under review.

Thank you to everyone for their willingness to go through this process, your cooperation has been much appreciated.

Training

All current PCC members have undertaken their Basic Awareness training which now is completed via a short online module. This basic training needs renewing every three years and a number of current PCC members, as well as new members, will be required to complete this in the near future. The PSO will contact anyone to whom this applies.

The PSO and the Rector have attended additional training courses or completed other required online training during the year, including leadership training and domestic abuse training.

Currently, there are no other volunteers who need to complete any safeguarding training, but again, this is always kept under review.

Safeguarding concerns and incidents

No safeguarding concerns have been raised during the year. A written procedure for dealing with allegations/disclosures of abuse is now in place, to provide guidance to any parishioner who needs to report an incident or allegation of abuse. This will be posted on the safeguarded section of the website very shortly.

Ali Pepper
Parish Safeguarding Officer
July 2021