



Parish Policy for
the
Safeguarding of
Vulnerable
Adults

March

2016

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable
Adults

**THE DIOCESE
OF YORK**

Benefice:

ST. CUTHBERTS ORMESBY

Incumbent:

REV. JENNIFER CROFT

Parish Safeguarding Representative:

HILARY MORRISON

This is a template that can be adopted by parishes in the Diocese of York for their Policy for the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults.

This template may be subject to updates in due course.

The PCC has appointed a Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) to safeguard vulnerable adults entering or using our Church premises who may be at risk of abuse or neglect. The PSR will be appointed annually and will ensure the implementation of both this policy and the York Diocesan Safeguarding policy and will report directly to the PCC. This policy will be reviewed, as necessary and annually by the PCC.

Church Policy Statement

The Church of England is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be at risk for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety¹. This church recognizes that there are different levels of vulnerability and that everyone may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in their lives. However, for the purposes of this document, safeguarding duties (as defined in the Care Act 2014) apply to an adult, over the age of 18, who meets the following circumstances:

- Has need for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- Is not able to protect himself/ herself from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The adult experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect will hereafter be referred to as the vulnerable adult throughout this document.



The Parochial Church Council takes seriously its safeguarding obligations and responsibilities and is committed to:

1. Promoting the inclusion, empowerment and wellbeing of all adults, recognising that the Church has the care of the souls of all who live in its Parish.
2. Providing respectful pastoral ministry to all, recognising any power imbalance within such a relationship.
3. Safeguarding all adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, ensuring their wellbeing in the life of the church.
4. Equipping church workers and members to be alert to the abuse of adults and aware of their duty report any suspected abuse or neglect.
5. Promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
6. Recruiting with care all church workers involved in any pastoral role and using of the Disclosure and Barring Service when legal or appropriate, in accordance with the Diocese guidelines.
7. Supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be at risk.
8. Adopting the guidelines of the Church of England and the policy of the Diocese of York.
9. Adhering to the guidance and principles of the Care Act 2014 on the Safeguarding of adults (see Appendix I).
10. Complying with the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 when it may be appropriate (see Appendix I).
11. Recognising its duty to work together with the local authority, police and local Safeguarding Adults Board and to seek their advice when necessary.
12. Supporting anyone who has suffered abuse by offering or arranging sensitive and informed pastoral care, including support to make a complaint if so desired.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes



ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation;

- Neglect and acts of omission – including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating;
- Self-neglect – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding;
- Spiritual Abuse: The church should also be aware that spiritual abuse may occur within and outside faith communities and can arise from the inappropriate use of religious belief or practice; the misuse of authority; intrusive healing and deliverance ministries; and the denial of the right of faith or the opportunity to grow in the love of God. The provision of inclusive acts of worship will provide for the spiritual growth and wellbeing of adults with special needs.

PROCEDURES IF ABUSE OF AN ADULT IS SUSPECTED OR DISCLOSED

If a church member or worker suspects that an adult is being, or is at risk of being, abused or neglected, they must take responsibility to act on their concerns. Not responding may be seen as act of abuse in itself.

1. Adults may find it difficult to disclose abuse and need support to tell their story. They should be listened to without leading questions or suggestions that may influence or confuse the story. The listener should not show shock or judgment.
2. If the person fulfils the criteria for being an adult at risk of abuse or neglect, or if they express suicidal thoughts, they should be informed that the information will have to be passed on as part of our duty of care, preferable with their consent (unless they lack the capacity to give this).
3. Careful notes must be kept, recording factual information and direct quotes where possible. Notes should be signed and dated and kept securely.
4. If the person is at immediate risk of harm or danger, the police and/or City of York Safeguarding Adults team must be contacted. The Safeguarding Coordinator or, in their absence the Incumbent, should be informed as soon as possible.
5. If the person is not at immediate risk, the Safeguarding Coordinator or Incumbent should be informed in the first instance. They will consult with the Diocesan safeguarding officer and may also discuss with and/or make a referral to the City of York Safeguarding Adults Team. If a criminal offence has occurred the police will be informed.



6. Pastoral care and support will be offered to the person who has disclosed the abuse or is at risk of abuse and neglect. All people within the church who work with adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect will agree to read and abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

Useful Telephone numbers:

- Churches Child Protection Advisory Service Help line: 0845 1204450
- City of York Social Services (ask for Safeguarding Adults Team): 01904 555111
- Local Police: 101

POLICY ADOPTION

This policy is adopted and will be reviewed annually by the PCC. A signed and dated copy must be sent annually to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Signed by Incumbent: JSCott

Print name: Revd Jennifer Croft

Date: 21st April 2016

Signed by Churchwarden: Hilary Morrison

Print name: HILARY MORRISON

Date: 21.4.16

Signed by Parish Safeguarding Representative: Hilary Morrison

Print name: HILARY MORRISON

Date: 21.4.16

