

Safeguarding Update

Diocese of Truro

Report for Synod

This report provides the Synod with an update from the Safeguarding Team on Safeguarding in the Diocese, following the presentations and discussions at November Synod.

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Author: Sue Day



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Policy and guidance

The National Safeguarding Team (NST) formally launched the **Parish Safeguarding Handbook** in March 2019 and posted a hard copy of the handbook to every parish in the Diocese.

The Handbook; which replaced the Diocesan Responsible Caring Guidance; is supplemented by local (Diocesan) guidance which has been developed in conjunction with a small group of Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators. The diocesan supplementary guidance for PCCs includes a summary of diocesan policy; PCC safeguarding responsibilities; frequently asked questions and what to do in the event of a safeguarding issue in your church.

This guidance includes further information about how and when to report serious safeguarding incidents to the Charities Commission (via the diocesan safeguarding team).

In addition we have developed a new section of our website 'I am worried' which provides information about different types of abuse, what to do and who to contact.

As part of our review of how the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) and its sub groups operate; we have revised the terms of reference and membership for the Safeguarding Audit Committee. This group will now focus on listening to parishes about how safeguarding is working and the implications of any changes.

Our revised safeguarding guidance will be launched on our website pages during May and Synod members will have the opportunity to view the information and discuss with the safeguarding team.

Safer recruitment

Following the discussions at the November Synod meeting, members were asked to identify what changes and improvements might be required within their PCCs.

In order to learn from each other and assist us in sharing best practice Synod members are asked to provide feedback at May's Synod meeting to the safeguarding team

As part of our three year strategy the safeguarding team committed to work with the parishes to:

1. Recognise how we recruit and retain our volunteers
2. Consider a diocesan recruitment policy that covers all elements of recruitment
3. Develop a toolkit that includes checklists; example role profiles and DBS guidance
4. Implement the national safeguarding database as and when it is developed

Over the last few months we have started to develop our safer recruitment guidance; in particular we have focussed on providing links to information about which roles do and don't require a DBS check and detailed guidance on the DBS process (all of which can be found on our website)

As part of the development of the new national safeguarding training programme, we are considering the implications of the new Online Safer Recruitment Training which is due to be launched in May.

Our Safeguarding Trainer (Mandy Wells) has been helping Illogan parish in developing a local approach to supporting and recruiting volunteers.

Disclosure & Barring Service Checks

Whilst DBS checks are an important component of safer recruitment it should be fully recognised that they only assist where individuals have some form of record!

In 2018 there were 440 DBS checks across the Diocese and for the first three months of 2019 there have been 105. As with 2017, the majority of these checks have been for Children's workers and Trustees. There were 3 DBS checks in 2018 that resulted in blemishes which required a risk assessment.

Safeguarding Training

In 2018, 796 people undertook safeguarding training; 60% attending face to face training across the Diocese with the remaining 40% completing online training. In the first three months of 2019 there were 258 people who undertook safeguarding training (including 59 who completed online training)

The Safeguarding Refresher (C5) Training was launched in September 2018 and 81 people attended the training before Christmas. Since January 93 people attended the 5 available courses.

In order to provide greater access to the domestic abuse awareness training it is now being offered immediately after the Safeguarding Refresher Training. Since we implemented this change we have run 1 course, which was attended by 14 people.