

Parish of Salter Street, Earlswood
Safeguarding Policy v2:
Children and Vulnerable Adults

December 2018

The law governing this Policy is the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, 2006 as amended by Part 5, Protection of Freedoms Act, 2012. As from 1st December 2012, the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the Criminal Records Bureau combined to form the **Disclosure and Barring Service** (DBS).

This Policy will be reviewed at least annually to ensure that any changes the law apply and that relevant changes in the policies adopted by the House of Bishops and Diocese of Birmingham are adhered to.

The Policy must be read in conjunction with the most recent House of Bishops Policy and the latest guidance from the Diocese of Birmingham Safeguarding Policies.

Principles

We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of and respectful pastoral ministry with all children and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safe recruitment principles, as defined by relevant legislation and the Church of England policies.

We will respond without delay to every disclosure made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the relevant authorities.

We will offer to anyone who has suffered abuse appropriate ministry and informed pastoral care.

We will challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Policies

Responsibilities of the Parish

(The term "parish" means the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and all those acting on its behalf, including the Youth Group, Adult craft Group, Bible Study Group and Call in for a Cuppa. Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the PCC supported by the DCCs.

The PCC of the parish of Salter Street implements the safeguarding children, vulnerable adults and victims of domestic abuse policy and procedures, accepting as a minimum the House of Bishops Policy on Safeguarding Children and the Joint Safeguarding Principles, but informed by additional diocesan procedures and recommended good practice while being responsive to local parish requirements. (Copies of these documents are available on the Diocesan Web site and it has been deemed unnecessary to reproduce them within this policy.)

The parish Safeguarding Officer works with the licensed clergy and the PCC to implement policy and procedures. The Safeguarding Officer ensures that any concerns about a child or the behaviour of an adult are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the diocesan safeguarding children advisor. The Safeguarding Officer reports at least annually to the PCC.

A Children's Advocate has been appointed. See appendix for name. The name of this person and the purpose of this role is posted in all churches and where activities are organized for young people, along with other relevant information.

The parish ensures that all those authorized to work with children

- are appropriately recruited according to safe recruitment practice
- are trained and supported;

The parish also ensures that

- There is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children undertaken in the name of the parish
- The implementation of the safeguarding policy, its procedures and good practice are reviewed at least annually

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Patrick's Church, Salter Street, agreed to adopt all of the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy and practice guidance and The Church of England – Birmingham's procedures for their implementation on 24 September 2018.

PROCEDURES

Recruitment

All recruitment takes place within the safe recruitment and safer working practice guidelines as outlined in the diocesan and parish policies and will be followed. (A copy of the diocesan guidelines can be found on the diocesan web site.)

Once recruited, there will be a mutual obligation to keep informed about up-to-date procedures relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Taking Action

Section 3 of the Diocese's "Safeguarding Policies" document (available on the diocesan website) describes in detail what action must be taken when there are concerns about children and young people. It provides clear procedures to follow at a time often characterized by high anxiety. It includes information on what happens when a matter is reported by the church; this is included in order to clarify the roles of the statutory organizations involved and the role of the church. The parish ensure that both those who are in direct contact with children and young people and other leaders are aware of these procedures.

Telephone Numbers

Parish Safeguarding Children and Young Adults Officer can be contacted

- Sarah Perry – Safeguarding Coordinator: 07719-942597
- through the Vicar on: 0121-733 6706

Other agency contact numbers are displayed in various parish locations including Dickens heath parish rooms.

Appendix

Parish Safeguarding Children and Young Adults Officer:
Sarah Perry and Revd Julie Humphries

Children's Advocate:
Margaret Young

Documents used to inform this policy/ referred to can be found by the following:

www.birminghamcofe.com

Diocese of Birmingham safeguarding policies: God's Children: Our Diocese

Safe Recruitment and Disclosure and Barring Service Application Procedures

www.legislation.gov.uk

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, 2006
Protection of Freedoms Act, 2012