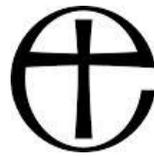


# 'SafE'

## Safeguarding Everyone



# THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

National Safeguarding Team

The Church of England's National Safeguarding  
Team Newsletter – Spring 2015 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

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## Welcome from the new National Safeguarding Advisor for the Church of England

Welcome to the spring 2015 edition of 'SafE' – our Church of England safeguarding newsletter produced by the national safeguarding team. The newsletter will aim to keep you informed of key national safeguarding developments both within the Church and external to the Church, as well as provide an opportunity for parishes and dioceses to share good practice in respect of their own safeguarding practices.

The newsletter forms part of a wider communication strategy and commitment to promoting a message that 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility' within the Church of England. This said, some of its content will undoubtedly be of more interest to those who have specific duties and responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults, for example, parish safeguarding officers and diocesan safeguarding advisors.

This first edition of 'SafE' provides an overview of some important developments both within and external to the Church. I am keen for future editions to feature articles about what is working well within parishes and dioceses – new initiatives and developments that promote a safer church and that reflect our mission as a church to transform communities and safeguard the vulnerable.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and valuable in helping you, in whatever role you have within the Church, to be safe, and to ensure that others around you are safeguarded and protected.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome that I have received since starting in mid-February. I know that the journey ahead will be a challenging one, but I am excited about the prospect of building on our achievements and taking forward an ambitious programme to deliver our aspirations to be a safer church in the future. Thank you for all that you are doing on a daily basis to contribute to this.

*Graham Tilby*

Graham Tilby – National Safeguarding Advisor

## DSA News

### DSA Day – March 2015

#### LAMBETH PALACE, LONDON

DSAs were welcomed to Lambeth Palace on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury on 26 March by Bishop Nigel Stock. The programme included an introduction from the National Safeguarding Advisor and presentations in respect of new safeguarding policies and practice guidance, national safeguarding training and the Safe Spaces Project – presentations available from [jenni.hornby@churchofengland.org](mailto:jenni.hornby@churchofengland.org)



### Special Feature – Mandatory Reporting

Colin Perkins, DSA from the Diocese of Chichester gave a thought-provoking presentation on the arguments for and against mandatory reporting in the UK. The group was asked to debate this using the two quotes below:

*“Mandatory reporting...high demand and a referring culture are likely to generate vigorous gatekeeping behaviours among social workers, while colleagues in other agencies will try to gatecrash in an effort to manage their own risk in a high-blame environment” (Prof Sue White, Birmingham Post, 12/03/15)*

*“I still have to meet a survivor who doesn't want mandatory reporting legislated. Funny that huh?” (Prominent pro-MR campaigner and survivor, Twitter, 05/03/15)*

### Diocesan Safeguarding Annual Statistical Data Return

This was due to be completed by 31 March 2015 – if you have not done so or are having any difficulties with this please contact [jennifer.hornby@churchofengland.org](mailto:jennifer.hornby@churchofengland.org)

### Opportunities to engage with the National Safeguarding Team

- Casework Officer Secondments (up to 6 months from June 2015) - expressions of interest to [graham.tilby@churchofengland.org](mailto:graham.tilby@churchofengland.org) by 30.4.15
- DSA Knowledge, Skills and Training Needs Audit
- Independent Chairs of Diocesan Safeguarding Panels/Boards Working Group (from summer 2015)
- Policy & Practice guidance development
- Training and development
- Diocesan Safeguarding Standards Working Group (from summer 2015)



#### DSA Day

26 March 2015

LAMBETH PALACE



### National Safeguarding Conference (joint with Methodist Church)

The evaluation report from the joint national safeguarding conference held in February 2015 is now available for DSAs. The provisional dates for the 2016 annual conference are 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> February – chairs of diocesan safeguarding panels/boards are to be invited to attend.

If you have ideas about themes or possible venues please contact or if you have any specific suggestions about our next DSA Day in autumn 2015 please contact [graham.tilby@churchofengland.org](mailto:graham.tilby@churchofengland.org)

## 'Inside Out'

### Overview of National Safeguarding Developments in the Church of England

#### Policy & Practice Guidance

There are a number of pieces of safeguarding policy and practice guidance that are due to be presented to the House of Bishops in May 2015. These include:

- Safer Recruiting Policy
- Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations Practice Guidance
- Risk Assessments Practice Guidance
- Case Recording Practice Guidance
- Joint Practice Guidance for Single Congregational Local Ecumenical Partnerships
- Practice Guidance for Religious Communities

A range of policy work is being undertaken with other elements of the Church of England, for example, with Religious Communities, Royal Peculiar, Cathedrals and Bell Towers. *For more information about these contact [simon.payne@churchofengland.org](mailto:simon.payne@churchofengland.org) (Please see consultation schedule on page 5)*

#### Learning & Development

A national safeguarding learning & development strategy will be presented to the House of Bishops in May as practice guidance. The strategy outlines a number of training modules and defines who should complete these modules in accordance with their role in parishes, dioceses or national church institutions. Three of the eight modules are being piloted across a number of dioceses, with an evaluation planned for May 2015. The strategy proposes a phased implementation of the modules over 2016-17. *For more information contact [jill.sandham@churchofengland.org](mailto:jill.sandham@churchofengland.org)*

#### Quality Assurance Pilots

Four dioceses – Blackburn, Durham, Salisbury and Portsmouth - will take part in the quality assurance audit pilots between June-October 2015, undertaken by an externally commissioned organisation. Every diocese will be invited to be audited over the next 3 years. *For more information contact [simon.payne@churchofengland.org](mailto:simon.payne@churchofengland.org)*

#### 'Safe Spaces Project' Pilots

The Safe Spaces Project was developed in direct response to the Archbishop of Canterbury's apology to survivors of abuse, and has been developed in collaboration with survivors. The project involves the potential commissioning and delivery of 3 separate but inter-related services – a telephone helpline, peer-to-peer mentoring support and one-to-one counselling. It is hoped that one or more of the services will be piloted for 3 years, starting in the autumn of 2015. *For more information contact [graham.tilby@churchofengland.org](mailto:graham.tilby@churchofengland.org)*

#### House of Bishops Sub-Groups

**Safeguarding Monitoring & Reference Sub-Group** – this group has been established to oversee the work on safeguarding on behalf of the House of Bishops. Its first meeting takes place on 30 April 2015, chaired by Bishop of Durham

#### Proviso to the Canon of 1806 (Confessional)

**Working Group** – established at the request of the Archbishops' Council, due to meet for the first time in June 2015. Membership is at the personal invitation of the Archbishops.

*For more information contact*

*[graham.tilby@churchofengland.org](mailto:graham.tilby@churchofengland.org)*

#### Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Legislation

There are a number of provisions currently passing through the synodical legislative process which relate to safeguarding and clergy discipline in the form of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure and various canonical amendments. These legislative proposals will be considered for the final time at the July Synod, but are unlikely to become law in force until 2016. These proposed legislative changes and timescales are summarised within the Safe supplement circulated with this edition. *For more information contact [stephen.york@churchofengland.org](mailto:stephen.york@churchofengland.org)*

## Special Feature - **Working Together 2015**

The government has published the outcome of their consultation on the three proposed changes to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' – the revised edition of Working Together was published on 26 March 2015. The key changes are:

- The government has removed the proposed expectation that allegations against those who work with children should be routed through children's social care
- The definition of notifiable incidents involving care of a child has been amended to
  - A child has died (including cases of suspected suicide) and abuse or neglect is known or suspected;
  - A child has been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is known or suspected;
  - A looked after child has died (including cases where abuse or neglect is not known or suspected);
  - A child in a regulated setting or service has died including cases where abuse or neglect is not known or suspected)
- The definition of 'seriously harmed' now reads 'cases where the child has sustained, as a result of abuse or neglect, any or all of the following:
  - A potentially life-threatening injury;
  - Serious and/or likely long-term impairment of physical or mental health or physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

*Working Together* has been revised to take account of several legislative and policy changes such as those relating to secure children's homes, child sexual exploitation, whistleblowing and duties set out in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 regarding Channel panels, which come into force on 12 April 2015.

For a full copy of the guidance go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Alongside the new Working Together 2015, the government has refreshed a number of other pieces of guidance:

### **What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for Practitioners**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>

### **Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

### **Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

## 'National Reports'

A number of significant external national reports were published in February and March 2015. These included:

### **Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**

Louise Casey, February 2015

Professors Alexis Jay's independent inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and the subsequent inspection of Rotherham children's services by Ofsted and Rotherham MBC by Louise Casey, has highlighted the impact of poor leadership and governance and failure to take action when young people are identified as at risk of significant harm. The report highlights the need for strong whistle-blowing policies. *For a copy of the full report go to:* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-of-inspection-of-rotherham-metropolitan-borough-council>

### **Themes and lessons learnt from NHS Investigations into matters relating to Jimmy Savile: Independent report for the Secretary of State for Health**

Kate Lampard and Ed Marsden, February 2015

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jimmy-savile-nhs-investigations-lessons-learned>

### **Investigations into the Association of Jimmy Savile with Stoke Mandeville Hospital A Report for Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust**

Dr Androulla Johnstone and Mrs Christine Dent

The recommendations from these two reports can be incorporated into safer recruitment practices. Specifically, they raise issues of how organisations manage visitors, including celebrity 'figures', manage volunteers and their relationships with fundraisers. The reports reinforce the need for regular reviews of safeguarding resources, structures and processes, training and the responsiveness of management and staff to safeguarding issues.

### **Tackling child sexual exploitation –**

HM Government, March 2015

The publication considers the need for mandatory reporting and the government's commitment to consult on options for imposing sanctions for failure to take action on abuse or neglect where it is a professional responsibility to do so. Any public consultation is likely to include considering an extension to the 'wilful neglect' offence to children's social care, education and elected members. CCPAS are calling for mandatory reporting to be extended to include church officials. *For a full copy of the report go to:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation--2>

### **Serious Case Review**

**Oxford Local Safeguarding Children Board, March 2015**

Oxford SCB has published its serious case review of services provided to victims of the 7 men, convicted in 2013, of 59 offences of child sexual exploitation, through Operation Bullfinch. The report highlights systematic failures, lack of organisational understanding, response and management oversight, making 13 recommendations for improvement. *For more information go to* [www.oscb.org.uk/case-reviews/](http://www.oscb.org.uk/case-reviews/)

## Special Feature – 'The Care Act 2014'

The Care Act 2014 is described by the Social Care Institute for Excellence as the most significant piece of legislation since the establishment of the welfare state. It begins by defining the primary responsibility of local authorities as the *promotion of individual wellbeing*. The Act, which comes into force on 1 April 2015, places a number of duties on local authorities, such as to:

- establish and maintain an information and advice service
- facilitate a diverse, vibrant and sustainable market for care and support services
- promote integration with NHS and other key partners
- carry out needs or carers assessments where necessary, produce care and support plans and to review them



Adult safeguarding is, for the first time, spelt out in law, whereby local authorities must make enquiries if they believe an adult is, or is at risk of, being abused or neglected. They must establish a Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB), which will carry out safeguarding adult reviews (SARs) when people die as a result of abuse or neglect or where the local authority, or its partners, could have done more.

### Ask Yourself:

- How does your church promote individual wellbeing?
- What implications does the Care Act 2014 have for your direct engagement with adults, including vulnerable adults?
- What will you need to change in terms of safeguarding arrangements as a result of the legislation?
- How will you engage in the work of Adult Safeguarding Boards?

To find out more about the Care Act 2014 go to: <http://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/>

### Consultation schedule

There are several policy and practice guidance documents currently out for consultation or return. These are:

Risk Assessment Practice Guidance	Deadline	Monday 13 April 2015
Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations	Deadline	Monday 20 April 2015
National Bell Ringing Safeguarding Guidance	Deadline	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2015
Safeguarding and Religious Communities	Deadline	Consultation ended 31.3.15

### Church of England Safeguarding Policy & Practice Guidance

Church of England agreed Policy Statements - <https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/protecting-and-safeguarding-children-and-adults-who-are-vulnerable/safeguarding-policy-statements-practice-guidance.aspx>

Safeguarding Developments for Diocese (including current practice guidance) -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/protecting-and-safeguarding-children-and-adults-who-are-vulnerable/safeguarding-developments-for-dioceses.aspx>

If you have any comments about how this newsletter can be improved or would like to contribute an article to the next edition in summer 2015, please contact

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