



## Safeguarding (Child and Adult Protection)

**Issue 21: February 2017**

**Dear Parish Safeguarding Officers,**

Welcome to the latest edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. It contains some information about the outcome of the independent audit of safeguarding arrangements within the Diocese of Southwark, undertaken in October 2016. The audit has just been published on the safeguarding pages of the website and you can find it via this link along with Bishop Christopher's response:

<http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/>

Thanks to everyone who was directly involved in October but also to you all who do so much in our parishes every week. We're working on an action plan to take forward some of the auditors' suggestions for how we develop our practice and will publish that alongside the audit report in due course.

This newsletter also contains items on the parish safeguarding self-audit which many of you are working on and some information about new Church of England safeguarding legislation which gives various people, including PCCs, a duty to have due regard to national safeguarding policies and guidance issued by the House of Bishops.

We've also included some updates and information on DBS matter, the Prevent strategy and dementia.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns which you would like to discuss with us, please do be in touch with a member of the team.

**Kate Singleton**  
**(Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser)**

### **Independent quality assurance audit**

Throughout 2016 and 2017, all dioceses will undergo an independent audit of their safeguarding arrangements. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has been commissioned by the National Safeguarding Team to undertake all of the audits. The audit for the Diocese of Southwark took place from 11 to 13 October 2016.

Considerable preparation went into the audit itself and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team were well supported through the exercise by other officers and parish representatives. The preparation was a helpful exercise in self-assessment and review. The audit was a collaborative and constructive process. The feedback from the auditors has been very positive with some helpful suggestions on future developments.

The full report is available at:

[http://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/safeguarding/Diocese\\_of\\_Southwark\\_independent\\_safeguarding\\_audit.pdf](http://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/safeguarding/Diocese_of_Southwark_independent_safeguarding_audit.pdf)

The auditors concluded that the Diocese has a robust safeguarding response in place with significant leadership demonstrated by Bishop Christopher and others at a senior level and a well skilled team.

The auditors were particularly impressed by swift responses made to resourcing pressures. They validated the revised governance arrangements made for the management of safeguarding within the Diocese and fed back some very positive messages about the work of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and training from members of a parish focus group.

The auditors confirmed a number of areas where potential further improvements could be made noting, "Southwark diocese is well advanced in its safeguarding awareness and service provision". These included encouraging some parishes to more promptly seek advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and a strengthening of support available to Parish Safeguarding Officers.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team have an action plan in place and are already responding to the suggested findings from the audit. We also welcome feedback from Parish Safeguarding Officers on how you would like further support. There is an opportunity to do this in the parish safeguarding self audit Q28, or contact the team with your suggestions. Please direct any comments you have to Louise Vernon. Thank you!

## Online Parish Safeguarding Self Audit 2016

Thank you to the parishes who have already submitted their completed audit. If you haven't made a start you still have time. Please complete online by 31st March 2017 so we can start collating the responses. An email with the full details was sent to PSOs on 19th December 2016 with an attached paper version which was sent in the post. If you have not received this please contact us so we can update your details and keep in touch.

The paper version is for you to see what is required and fill out ahead of completing the online version which is not printable.

Please find below a web-link for you to complete the parish safeguarding self-audit for 2016/17:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParishSafeguardingSelfAudit2016>

If you require any support in completing the self-audit, please contact the Safeguarding Administrator at [safeguarding@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@southwark.anglican.org)

## Important Safeguarding Legislation Updates

There have been a number of changes to the Clergy Discipline Measure, which is the structure for dealing with complaints against clergy. The Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 has had changes coming into force over the period May 2016 – March 2017.

From 1st October 2016, all Clergy, Readers, Churchwardens and PCCs have a duty to “pay due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the

safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults”. That guidance is contained within a number of documents, several of which have been under review nationally this year. They are all available on the CofE national website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-adults/national-policy-practice-guidance.aspx>, but please contact the team if you have questions.

Many PSOs have been asking about the update of ‘A Safe Church’ the diocesan manual given to each parish and available on the Diocese of Southwark website. We have been attempting to co-ordinate our update with the national review. Please continue to use the website version as a reference along with the training materials you receive when you attend one of our safeguarding courses.

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## ***The Prevent Strategy***

*Prevent* is part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy to stop people becoming radicalised or supporting terrorism. The Prevent Duty Guidance places a duty on the public sector to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. As yet, radicalisation is not within the CoFE National Safeguarding Policy or in 'A Safe Church' but there are some useful links below if you would like further information.

**One way the church can play a part in preventing vulnerable young people and adults moving down the path of radicalisation and extremism is by helping to prevent isolation. Reaching out to our local communities and making everyone feel welcome plays an important part in supporting this strategy.**

*Government Guidance and Advice Documents*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/425189/Channel\\_Duty\\_Guidance\\_April\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf)

*Free online training with printable certificates*

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/b/screen1> - this takes about 45 minutes

[http://course.ncalt.com/Channel\\_General\\_Awareness/01/index.html](http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html) - this takes about 25 minutes

If you have any concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult in relation to extremism, radicalisation or terrorism please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

### **Glossary (from the Prevent Duty guidance in England and Wales, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015)**

**Radicalisation** – 'refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups'

**Extremism** – 'vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs'

## **Supporting People Living with Dementia**

We have all heard of Dementia but understanding what it is and responding well to people living with dementia in our communities is something we want to develop and raise awareness of. The symptoms of dementia can include losing memory and difficulty with problem-solving and language. Supporting people with dementia and their carers requires recognising the difficulties each individual is facing and responding flexibly to their needs and those who may be caring for them.

The Alzheimer's Society Website; <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/> is a good source for further information. Some tips you may find helpful on communicating with someone with dementia can be found in this guide:

<https://www.dementiauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/tips-for-communication4.pdf>

There will be further information in our next newsletter.

**Dementia Awareness Week** 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017    **National Dementia Helpline** 0300 222 1122

## Online DBS checks

We continue to see an increasing rise in DBS applications on line with more than 2000 applications being submitted online by December 2016! In the last quarter of 2016, we had no paper DBS application forms at all and currently only a relatively small number of parishes still need to be registered. If you haven't yet registered your parish for online DBS checks, please do contact Uzma Osinibi, Diocesan DBS Administrator via [uzma.osinibi@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:uzma.osinibi@southwark.anglican.org) to find out how to do so. Registration only takes a few minutes and a parish can be set up to use the system within a couple days of sending details.

Many parishes have commented on how easy the new system is to use, and how they appreciate having the APCS helpline when technical support is required, or with general queries relating to DBS guidelines.

If you are unsure about which level of check a role would require, please do contact APCS (Access Personal Checking Services) on 0845 643 1145 before submitting your application at the ID verification stage.

The link to the current practice guidance is:

[https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2552006/safer\\_recruitment\\_practice\\_guidance\\_2016.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2552006/safer_recruitment_practice_guidance_2016.pdf)

There is also a section on **DBS Frequently Asked Questions** on the following link which is extremely helpful;

[https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2552019/dbs\\_faq\\_july\\_16\\_\\_002\\_.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2552019/dbs_faq_july_16__002_.pdf)