



January 2020

Safeguarding – Past Case Reviews for all church officers

Dear Colleagues

All of us are working to create a church which, by the grace of God, offers safety to all, especially those who are vulnerable. Sadly, this has not always been the case. It is therefore important that all known cases of concern about the behaviour of clergy and church officers towards children and vulnerable adults have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

To play your part in the current national Past Case Review, please would you now check that all known instances of concern about the behaviour of church officers within your worshipping communities, both non-recent and current, have been notified to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST). This is obviously a sensitive task, which may require looking at parish/other files and making some discreet enquiries. Where there is a concern it may be appropriate to consult a previous incumbent to obtain fuller details. In the spirit of the Gospel we all want to protect and care for our children and vulnerable adults.

Information is sought on persons who have or have had a role in the Church where their role brings them into contact with children or with vulnerable adults and this has not been reported to the DST. We are not seeking information about worshippers and those attending church activities who do not hold formal office in the Church (nor about those people who are already known to us where they are subject to a local safeguarding agreement). The advice of the DST should be sought in any instances of doubt.

There is additional information (Appendix 1) about the behaviours that should be referred (if the DST were not notified previously) and about the definition of 'church officer' (Appendix 2).

**Please refer any matters which have not already been reported immediately to our Diocesan Safeguarding Team by email at [safeguarding@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding@bristoldiocese.org) or calling 0117 906 0100 or out of office hours 0303 003 1111.**

I realise that this might be a difficult task. We are asking that you return Table 1a along with the Parish Declaration to the DST by March 23, 2020. Please note this must be done for each parish, not one for the whole benefice.

There are details about our safeguarding support processes on the diocesan website. [www.bristol.anglican.org](http://www.bristol.anglican.org)

I am most grateful for your part in working towards a safer church. Please continue to pray for all affected by abuse.

With my gratitude for all your work in Christ's name.

In Christ

*N Bristol*