

Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Vulnerable Adults



Diocese of Chichester

Foreword from Bishop John Hind

After some years of learning how best to create a safe environment in the Church for children, young people and those involved with them, the time has come to formalise what is already widely recognised as similar safeguarding for other vulnerable people and their carers. The whole Church is grateful for the efforts of our professional advisers in "building our capacity" to make sure that, as far as we are able, the Church is in the lead in having both the policies and the practices that enable everyone to reach their full potential as human beings made in the image and likeness of God.

This document is intended as a guide, and in some aspects as directions, for parishes and other groups in the Diocese of Chichester as they seek to embody our existing good practice in relation to children also to vulnerable adults.

I commend this text to you and expect all in the Diocese to adhere strictly to the best practice it embodies. It is not mere advice but a statement of what as a community we believe and practise.

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Recommended Practice - Advice to create a safe environment for vulnerable adults. This advice should be followed as closely as possible. Changes to this section should only be made after seeking the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. All workers with vulnerable adults should have access to this section

- Y1 Guidance for those in positions of trust or exercising pastoral ministry with vulnerable people
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All relevant information for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults can also be found on the Diocesan web site:-

- The House of Bishops' Policy – Promoting a Safe Church

- The Diocesan policy and procedures & practice guidance – Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Vulnerable Adults (2010)
- Recruitment and Criminal Records Bureau procedures and advice at www.diochi.org.uk

The procedures and recommended good practice contained in this document are issued on the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese, and are to be used by the cathedral, parishes and all organisations, which are under the auspices of the Diocese. Careful implementation of this policy and clear communication of its elements to the congregation, including vulnerable adults and their carers, will play a vital role in the Diocese of Chichester's commitment to safeguard vulnerable adults. It will help to ensure that vulnerable adults can participate fully in the wide range of pastoral, social and other general activities in an environment in which they will be safe from harm and abuse. This is the responsibility of the whole church community and is in accordance with House of Bishops' National Policy on Safeguarding Adults.

Introduction

An increase in awareness of the needs of vulnerable adults should enable Christians to recognise and speak out about harm wherever it is encountered and to take positive steps to prevent abuse and promote well being.

Everyone responsible for congregations and organisations in the Diocese should make themselves familiar with and implement the House of Bishops' policy document "*Promoting a Safe Church 2006*" and this accompanying Diocesan Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Document "*Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults 2010*". This document is based on the relevant legislation "*Care Standards Act 2000 and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 1989/2004*" and government guidance contained in *Safeguarding Adults : a national framework of Standards and Good Practice in Adult Protection 2005* It complies with the Sussex Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Procedures.

This policy document provides a safe framework within which church workers can conduct their important ministry to vulnerable adults. All church legal bodies, usually the parish, have a duty of care towards all those to whom they minister. National and Diocesan procedures and good practice guidelines should be followed to ensure that insurance cover is maintained.

