

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

St Boniface and St John's ("The Church") Nursling and Rownhams PCC

Church Statement

This Church has an active ministry with a wide range of people. The Parochial Church Council (the PCC) takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of all those entrusted to the Church's care or who use its services or participate in any of its groups. This Policy outlines the procedures and standards expected by the Church.

Church Mission

As part of the Church's mission the PCC are committed to:

- For all people - affirming the individuality, importance and right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness.
- The safeguarding of vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.
- Taking the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- Exercising proper care in the appointment and selection of staff.

To ensure these are achieved the PCC has appointed Ann Laird as the Parish's Safeguarding Officer.

Areas of Policy

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 or over who is considered to be unable to take care of him or herself and/or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. This is most likely to be because of a long-standing physical or mental disability or old age but anyone can be considered vulnerable at some point in their lives because of any number of factors including bereavement, divorce, the loss of a job, domestic abuse etc.

It is acknowledged that there are vulnerable people within the church family and also people who come into more casual contact by attendance at events, services or courses.

The PCC have therefore adopted the policy contained in this document, setting out agreed guidelines relating to the following areas:

- Supervision of activities and practice issues.

- Responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against leaders/members of the Church
- Helping victims of abuse
- Working with offenders

Diocesan contact

Director of Social Transformation & Child Protection Officer
Ms Jane Fisher. She can be contacted on 01962 737347

Definitions of abuse

Abuse falls under four main headings, although in some cases more than one form of abuse may be present. There is clearly some overlap between the categories.

(See Appendix A)

Care of vulnerable adults

All church members have a responsibility to care for people. Care of people who may be vulnerable should be given high priority and should be considered when inviting people from outside the church to events such as Alpha, services for the recently bereaved, healing services etc. Offering vulnerable people friendship is particularly important.

The following points should be borne in mind when working with a vulnerable adult:

- Care should be exercised if working alone with a vulnerable person
- When people are vulnerable they may find it difficult to make decisions and may be susceptible to suggestion from others. We should seek to listen and be careful not to impose our views too strongly.
- All people have the right to lead as independent a life as possible and to choose how to live their lives. It is good to offer help but we should not make a person dependent on us and should ensure we do not take decisions for them.

Recognising and responding to abuse

When considering whether abuse has occurred it is important to find out whether the vulnerable adult in question has consented to what has taken place, and it may also be important to decide whether they had the capacity to consent.

It is important to recognise that a vulnerable adult may deny abuse has taken place or not wish for abuse to be reported to police. In these circumstances discussion should take place with the Vicar and/or Safeguarding Officer about how to proceed.

If possible abuse is disclosed a record should be kept.

What to do if you suspect abuse may have occurred

See Appendix C for action to be taken on suspicion or report of abuse.

Working with offenders

See Appendix D for practice in working with offenders within the Church.

Appointment of workers

A recruitment policy for the appointment of workers (including volunteers) is contained in Appendix E

Volunteer Conduct

Volunteers are expected to behave in accordance with this policy. In cases of misconduct the disciplinary procedure will be used. (See Appendix H)

The Diocesan policy and appendices are kept in the filing cabinet in St John's vestry.

Date:

Signed: (Vicar)

Signed: (PCC Safeguarding Officer)