**Version 1.0 - 18/04/2017.**



**Safer recruitment; application of DBS and training policy as relating to safeguarding (2017)**

*A Policy for the Diocese of Lichfield; its churches and Parishes.*



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1. **Introduction and context.**

This policy was written by Neil Spiring (Diocese Safeguarding Advisor). As such it pulls in relevant knowledge of diocese trainers, Kim Hodgkins (Diocese Safeguarding officer), and existing national church directives and policies relating to safer recruitment, DBS checks and existing contractual relationships within the Diocese.

This Policy recognises that the Christian faith embraces learning and teaching as well as honesty and transparency. It is recognised that with this comes commitment to the safety of our church and its users, and that this requires a commitment in terms of time and transparency. In this document we will explore how the diocese has committed to achieving the above via commitment to training and the undertaking of appropriate checks when these are applicable

This document is an open document - to be developed and improved over time by the amendment and contributions of our stakeholders in the diocese and beyond. We welcome suggestion, debate and engagement in development to ensure organic improvement. To this end should you have any queries, ideas, suggestions or additions relating to this or any other Diocese Safeguarding Policy - we would like to hear from you.

***Neil Spiring – Diocese Safeguarding Advisor. 19/06/2017***

1. **Working Principles of this Policy:**

Safeguarding vulnerable Adults, Children and Young people is always a significant concern and responsibility of all those associated with church activity. As a consequence Safeguarding is everyone’s concern and no one person’s.

As a result of the above we commit to the principle of ‘No More Secrets’, and in so doing will be transparent in our responsibilities, interests, behaviours and concerns. We will be open to scrutiny without defence and admit mistakes openly. We will challenge each other in appropriate ways and work together to ensure we consider all issues from as wide a range of perspectives and views as possible. We will be forgiving but hold ourselves and others to account.

1. **Who is covered by this policy?**

Persons undertaking activities on behalf of the church with vulnerable persons on a paid or voluntary bases. This includes vulnerable adults (adults with poor health, mental health conditions or other circumstances that may leave them open to abuse by virtue of vulnerability), as well as children; ***hence not working with children does not negate the need for the training and checks discussed within this policy***. For further information on the categories and nature of abuse please see the Diocese Safeguarding Policy (2017)

**Section 1**

1. **Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS check).**

4.1 National legislation sets down the need for organisations working with children and Adults who may be at risk of abuse (or made vulnerable by circumstance), to perform checks with the Disclosure and Baring Service. The circumstances relating to who must be checked are outlined and codified and a local (Diocesan level) interpretation applied in this policy.

4.2 The DBS system replaces older and separate barring lists and criminal record Bureau checks. When applying for an enhanced DBS check with regulated activity a person will be checked against national barring lists that prohibit a person from working with a particular group (following previous disciplinary action or incident). In addition the process will check an individual for criminal conviction against assorted national databases. The offence will be considered against the risk to children and adults (ie- a historic caution at the age of 16 for shop lifting need not exclude a person from working with children later in life).

4.3 If employed in a position where you will be working with vulnerable adults or children you will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check. This is regardless of your position being full or part time, permanent of sessional. If you come into contact in a leadership role with adults who are vulnerable (for example the sick, those with dementia), or children, you will require an enhanced DBS check as you will be undertaking regulated activity. If you serve in a leadership role on a PCC or have a PCC post with portfolio for children and vulnerable adults – you will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

4.4 DBS checks are undertaken against a particular group of vulnerabilities. If working only with Children or young persons you will not need a check against working with adults. If working only with Adults you will not need a check for working with children. If you are in a role where you will work in an eligible role that brings you into contact with children and adults you will need to be checked against both. When applying you will need to indicate how this applies to you based upon your circumstances and role.

4.5 You may be in receipt of a DBS check from another organisation – for example if you are a teacher you will likely have had one from your employer. However as a general rule **these are not transferable** and if undertaking an eligible role within the church you will require a check be undertaken via the church.

4.6 Under some circumstances you may have a transferable DBS check if you have paid for this addition as a result of professional need (for example an agency teacher or carer who moves between different schools and employers), this is undertaken through the DBS Update Service. Under such circumstances this may be accepted by the church – but only if the checks relate to the correct vulnerability grouping (see 4.4).

**5) Who will require a DBS check?**

*Readers of this policy should be aware of the concept of ‘regulated activity’; Meaning that if an activity (for example a Sunday school or transporting adults in cars or mini busses), comes under legislation requiring statuary regulations that legally govern how an activity is undertaken – you will require a check. As an overriding rational, if an activity falls into this category then a DBS check will always be required.*

*Examples would include (but are not limited to):*

* ***Personal care with adults or children***
* ***Shopping, social support in the community***
* ***Assistance with tasks around house***
* ***Regulated activities (such as learning – for example Sunday school leaders)***
* ***If an activity involves offering advice or guidance***
* ***Assisting a person with needs or nutrition or hydration***
* ***Moderation of an online group or activity involving children, young persons or a vulnerable adult group (for example those with dementia).***
* ***Any transportation of a vulnerable person involving a motor vehicle.***

***This is not exhaustive and should be considered in relation to the above and below sections of this policy and if need be in discussion with the Diocese.***

5.1 Anyone sanctioned by the church to undertake a ministry (ordained or licenced reader or other variant), will require a DBS check. This includes youth ministry, PTO’s and other forms of work involving the leadership or lone working with vulnerable adults and children.

5.2 Licenced ministers, readers and those with Permission to Officiate (PTO’s), must maintain current DBS certificates. Failure to do so will invalidate them from practice until this is rectified. Deaneries and the Bishops office where licences or PTO’s are issued from need to be informed when renewing DBS certificates.

5.3 You will need a DBS check if working in a leadership or unsupervised role with children, young persons or adults with vulnerabilities. You may be in a role where you are working under supervision with these groups – under such circumstances you may not require checks and this will be determined by your safeguarding officer, minister in consultation with the Diocese DBS administrator.

5.3 **Home Communion;** the advice currently provided to the Diocese from national church is that as an activity in itself, home communion does not require the completion of a DBS check. This said if a person undertaking home Communion is also assisting with shopping, giving advice, making drinks, sandwiches or providing some other care related act or assistance – this will require the checking of said person under rules of regulated activity. In such cases this needs to be detailed on the DBS application and the job title of the person concerned needs to reflect these additional tasks. CCPAS who undertake checks on behalf of the church request that a person delivering home communion involved in such tasks should be given the position title of *'Pastoral Visitor' or 'Pastoral Worker'* on application for DBS checks, to reflect additional tasks and roles undertaken.

5.4 ***PCC membership;*** National Anglican church guidance suggests that all parish, church and cathedral council members should be DBS checked. However after considering the issue, it has been agreed that policy relating to the Diocese of Lichfield shall be that all PCC members in a post of Portfolio on a PCC (that is to say they have a named position of responsibility that bestows upon them designated leadership, oversight and responsibility), should be DBS checked. Other members of PCC’s who are not so positioned will not require DBS checks. This is in recognition of the fact that depending upon individual church preferences, PCC memberships may be large - often containing large segments of the congregation as non-post holding members. Although not related to the safeguarding of adults and children it should also be noted that convictions for fraud and theft will exclude a person under church rules from serving on a PCC. In addition any convictions under Schedule One of the Children’s Act 1933 (and subsequent amendments), will likely exclude an individual from service. Individual churches and congregations should consider this factor when appointing PCC members. The incumbent and PCC leadership should ensure that it is happy those who serve are of ‘good character’, in line with canon law.

5.5 ***Persons serving as Churchwardens***; Due to the nature of this role and its responsibilities all persons serving as Churchwardens or assistant wardens will require DBS checks.

6 **Local DBS arrangements and processes for Diocese of Lichfield.**

6.1 The diocese has contracted responsibility for DBS checks out to the ‘Churches Child Protection Advisory Service’ (CCPAS), who operates an electronic application service for use by the Diocese. As such the process is now undertaken online. As a result the Diocese is no longer able to undertake paper applications for DBS checks.

6.2 Parishioners who do not have access to the internet at home should speak to their church based safeguarding officer or minister in order to arrange access to a computer via your parish offices.

6.3 The Diocese offers assistance with DBS checks via a DBS administrator who can be contacted at St Mary’s House on telephone number **01543 622320**. The DBS administrators *name is Sue Hathaway* and she can advise on specific questions raised during application.

* 1. The DBS process can broadly be broken down into 3 stages;

* 1. The Diocese DBS administrator who has access to the appropriate computer database can track and advise on applications throughout the process and will ensure that the Diocese Safeguarding advisors are aware of any applications returning blemish.
  2. If a blemish is returned under a DBS check, the impact will depend upon the nature of the conviction. For example whilst a conviction for shop lifting many years ago may not result in a person being prevented from undertaking a specific role with children or adults, it is likely that an offence relating to mistreatment or abuse of a child or adults will negate the applicant from working with these groups.
  3. Any blemished certificate is required to be submitted to a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser for risk assessment before *the applicant undertakes any duties relating to the role applied for.*

**Section Two; Training and safeguarding**

**7.0 Safeguarding training for those working with children, young persons and adults.**

Training in relation to safeguarding has now been centralised across the Church of England (since 2017). As a consequence the training that must be completed, the level of training that must be undertaken and who must undertake it, are now the same across all diocesan areas.

**7.1 Training; ground rules, behaviours and expectations.**

Training is delivered according to Church of England national policy and guidance. The training is compulsory and is delivered by the diocese under instruction. Candidates are asked to respect that our trainers are delivering national church materials and that in so doing they are complying with national guidance’s. Hence any concerns of candidates in relation to the material, its delivery or its status as a requirement for a candidate’s role should not be addressed to our trainers but rather addressed to national church authorities. Inevitably any attempt to discuss candidate views and concerns in relation to these issues with trainers during training will delay the delivery of material required and extend the length of the training session for all in attendance.

Our trainers are volunteers or staff to give up time outside their normative working pattern. As such we rely upon their good will and commitment in undertaking this role. As a consequence we must request that all those attending training commit to maintain a polite and respectful attitude to fellow candidates and trainers at all times.

It should be noted that some of the material covered may be distressing to some people. Should this be the case please make our trainers aware and we will facilitate a discussion privately away from the training.

***Safeguarding training provided by a candidates employer or other voluntary/charitable organisation is not accepted by the church*** - all persons working with vulnerable adults or children must complete the relevant church training modules relating to their role (please see section 7.2 to 7.5 below).

***Training undertaken within the Church prior to January 2017 will not meet new national church training requirements*** and you will need to complete the new relevant training.

7.2 Training is broken down across 4 specific modules from C0 to C4. Please select the training that applies to your role from the descriptions below. .

7.3 **C0 training**;

***Intake requirements***; ***Open to anyone wishing to undertake.***

***Target: Anyone interested in finding out more about safeguarding of children, adults and young persons. Anyone progressing to C1, C2 or C3).***

***Duration – 2 hours or if integrated into C1,C2 (half a day inclusive of other module)).***

***Description;*** This is a basic awareness training that covers issues such as what is abuse, how to report it and what categories this may fall into. This training is available to all persons who are interested in improving their knowledge base in relation to safeguarding. It is a requirement of all other safeguarding training that C0 be completed before a person moves on to take C1, C2 or C3 training. For this reason we have integrated C0 into other modules of the Safeguarding training. It is envisaged that in the future C0 will also be available in an online e learning environment.

7.4 **C1 Training;**

***Intake requirement; Candidates will need to be willing to undertake or have undertaken C0.***

***Target:*** person working under supervision with vulnerable adults, children or young persons or with persons who undertake regulated activities. Hence a person volunteering for Sunday school, community care group or dementia friendly church, transportation or other such role that will bring them into supervised contact with children, young persons or vulnerable adults.

***Duration***; Half a day.

***Description;*** This training builds upon C0 and is aimed at any person working under supervision with vulnerable adults, children or young persons or with persons who undertake regulated activities. C1 Training lasts approximately half a day and incorporates the C0 training outlined in 7.2 above.

7.5 **C2 Training**;

***Intake requirement; Candidates will need to be willing to undertake or have undertaken C0.***

***Target***; Those leading activities and groups working with children, young persons or vulnerable adults. Persons undertaking the role of Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

***Duration:*** Half a day

***Description***; This is aimed at any person discharging a leadership role in relation to work with Children, young persons, vulnerable adults or tasks falling under the notion of regulated activity. Such staff will inevitably be responsible for supervision of others in relation to said activities and will likely be involved in church level policy and process formulation. We would also recommend that those heading up safeguarding for their church undertake training to this level. Those completing C2 training will also need to undertake C1 training before completing C2.

7.6 **C3 Training**;

***Intake requirement; Those attending will be ordained or licensed.***

***Target***; Ordained Priests, Licensed Readers, those with permission to officiate.

***Duration:*** One day

***Description;*** C3 Training is for Ordained ministers, Licensed readers and retired clergy retaining permission to officiate. The training is aimed at those with pastoral and spiritual responsibility for those with vulnerability and those working with vulnerability alike. Persons needing to complete C3 Training will address as a consequence a wider range of material including much of that already covered under C1 and C2 in addition to role specific application. As a consequence the C3training programme is a full day in duration.

**C4 Training** is for designated senior clergy and is by invitation from National church safeguarding team.

**7.7 Permission To Officiate and DBS.**

Permission to officiate (PTO), is valid only if you hold a current unblemished DBS certificate that has not expired. *Permission to officiate will lapse automatically if DBS expires without renewal*. PTO’s must maintain a valid DBS check in line with the requirements of this role, seek renewal in such a way as to avoid a lapse in validity and ensure that the Diocese is kept informed of new checks as expiry date approaches. When DBS renewals are required, any new expiry date needs to be given to the Bishop of Lichfield Office. PTO’s should ensure that the incumbent at any Parish where they officiate has site of these details and can satisfy themselves of compliance with these terms. PTO’s may be revoked by the bishop or his successor at their discretion at any time **or** laps automatically without notification if not conforming to section 7.6 of this policy.

**7.8 Permission To Officiate and C3 Safeguarding training/ Application for Bishops exemption.**

Recent amendments to Canon C8 require that a PTO who officiations must ensure that they have completed the national churches C3 safeguarding training as per section 7.5 of this policy (this covers working with Children and adults). This training was introduced in 2017 and is priestly specific. Safeguarding training undertaken before 2017 or with another organisation does not qualify under PTO terms of service. In extreme cases (as agreed with the Bishop of Lichfield), where health is an issue to accessing training an application may be made by Diocese Safeguarding Advisor to the Bishop of Lichfield’s office for training exemption. This will only be made after health impact assessment has been completed and all other considerations of access to training have been discounted.

***The minister in a parish where a PTO officiates must now seek confirmation of compliance (or plan and intention to seek compliance in a timely manner) of sections 7.6 and 7.7 of this policy, to satisfy themselves that you are in ‘good standing’.***

As a consequence of the above, the PTO process will require relevant information be shared as appropriate between Parishes and the Diocese. The Diocese will undertake to ensure that information is factually limited to the subject of PTO terms compliance and that disclosure will not involve any information that is not relevant to the terms defined within this policy.

8) **Application and enrolment on training.**

**8.1 Location and reasonable adjustment to meet candidate’s needs.**

We endeavour to offer multiple dates and times for training and ensure that where possible these are offered in a location and format convenient for candidates. This said we have limited staff available to deliver training and for this reason we are unable to attend every Parish and church to train and do require that candidates travel to an event in their Diocese area. To facilitate this we will endeavour to lay on at least 3 events in a diocese area every 12 month and space these in such a way as to make reasonable commuting feasible throughout a district area. It should be further noted that all of the safeguarding courses have significant computer, audio and visual technical requirements that limit the suitability of available venues.

Should a candidate have specific needs relating to disability or long term illness that limit their attendance and present specific needs and access to facilities whilst attending training, they should complete the form below in section 9 and return it to Neil Spiring or Kim Hodgkins at St Marys House. We will attempt to make all reasonable readjustments feasible to permit those with legitimate needs to engage with training. It should be noted that specialist facilities are available at specific venues and travel may be affected.

**8.2 Booking onto and selecting a training course.**

Available dates/times, module types and locations will be displayed on the diocese website <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding>. To enrol you should select a date, time and location and then telephone St Marys house on 01543 306030 Monday to Friday (9 to 5 pm). To book training please ask to speak with Sally (AM), and Chris (PM). It should be noted that available dates and venues are regularly updates and if a candidate is unable to determine an event suitable for them, they should continue to check the website on a regular bases.

9) **Disability inclusion and long term illness risk assessment for candidates:**

Should a candidate have specific needs relating to disability or long term illness that limit their attendance and present specific needs and access to facilities whilst attending training, they should complete the form below in section 9 and return it to Neil Spiring or Kim Hodgkins at St Marys House. We will attempt to make all reasonable readjustments feasible to permit those with legitimate needs to engage with training.

Please note in order to ensure the best outcome from this process we would ask that those wishing to apply for training using this route provide us with as much notice of their needs as possible.

**Once completed this form should be returned to Neil Spiring or Kim Hodgkins at:**

**The Safeguarding Team**

**St Mary’s House**

**The Close**

**Lichfield**

**Ws13 7LD**



**Safeguarding training; Disability inclusion plan**

***(for completion by candidate or representative)***

**Candidates name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Your Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_**

**Event to access: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of event if known \_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_**

**Outline of your role or intended role and duties in within the church:**

1. **What disabilities or long term health conditions do you feel you need to disclose to us that impact upon your training needs?**

**2) How would this likely impact upon your participation in a formal training session? (This includes classroom work with audio visual aids, group activities and debate).**

**3) Are there any specific requirements you have that must be met in order to enable you to participate in training effectively*?***

*(Please be specific – for example do you require an interpreter, disabled changing or toileting facilities, a loop system etc).*

**4) Are you able to participate in training if the requirements in point 3 are not met?**

**5) Do you receive any formal assistance from statutory agency or a provider of such an agency to facilitate access to the community (for example a personal assistant, mobility vehicle, personal assistant, direct payment? If so are there any requests in relation to formal care in order to help maximise effectiveness of your provision?**

**6) Who should we contact in the event of an emergency?**

***(Please include, name, address and contact telephone number).***

***Name:***

***Address:***

***Contact Telephone number:***

1. **Are there any dietary or allergy based requirements or needs that we should be aware of?**

**9) Is there anything else you wish to make us aware of or that you feel we should know in relation to your training needs?**

**Name of person completing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of candidate; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**For Diocese Office Use Only:**

**Is reasonable re-adjustments required to facilitate inclusion and access to training – include rational and proposed method for meeting this if applicable.**

**If decision is that no readjustment is required, please outline why this is.**

**Staff member completing; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Diocese Continuation:***