

SAFEGUARDING ADVICE

ST ANDREW'S, OMBERSLEY



This advice is to support anyone who may find themselves in the position of working with/supporting children, young people or vulnerable adults in the context of our work and outreach as a church.

The safeguarding policy (available on the website, church noticeboard) details our responsibilities as a church.

Parish safeguarding representative: **Jenny Batelen**
Contact telephone number: **01905 621294**
Incumbent contact details: Rev Canon Dr Sheila Banyard
01905 773134

Should you be in the position that a child, young person or adult starts sharing information with you about events that indicate safeguarding concerns, please follow these important 'Do's and Don'ts'.

DO listen and give the person time. If they are sharing something with you they trust you and it is important that they are able to talk and this may be the only time they pluck up courage to say anything.

DO make a note of the conversation as soon afterwards as possible – date it and try to record as much as you can remember.

DO inform the parish safeguarding representative/interim rector (and tell the person sharing that you are doing so) as soon as possible.

DON'T ask questions - these could lead the conversation and in the event of any criminal proceedings will prejudice the case.

DON'T promise to keep the information a secret

If what you hear gives you a real concern about what happens next with that person then it is important that your contact with the safeguarding representative/rector happens immediately.

VULNERABLE ADULTS

An adult who is vulnerable is defined as “any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently, or for the time being, unable to take care of him or herself, or to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”

Some of the factors that increase vulnerability include:

- a sensory or physical disability or impairment;
- a learning disability;
- a physical illness;
- mental ill health (including dementia), chronic or acute;
- an addiction to alcohol or drugs;
- the failing faculties in old age;
- a permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity brought about by life events, for example bereavement or previous abuse or trauma.

Abuse in adults can be physical, emotional, sexual, financial, neglect or self-neglect, spiritual, or modern slavery

Reporting mistreatment

Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying must be responded to without delay. If you think that someone is at immediate risk of serious harm you must contact the police on 999.

Most situations will not require such immediate action. Where there are suspicions of abuse but where no allegation of abuse has been made, you should share your concerns with, and seek guidance from, the incumbent, and/or the Parish Safeguarding Officer, and from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), [Hilary Higton](#). 07495 060869 or [Delia Stokes](#) Assistant DSA 07376 374380