



Safeguarding Factsheet 050325

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is all about having the knowledge and awareness to understand various types of abuse and neglect; being able to identify the signs; knowing what steps to take if you suspect abuse is happening or if someone discloses abuse.



The Catholic Church of England and Wales, including the Archdiocese of Southwark is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. The Archdiocese and its parishes recognize that the welfare of children, young people and Adults at risk is paramount and that they have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Who does Safeguarding protect?

Effective safeguarding practice is designed to protect everyone. However, there are certain groups of people who are deemed to be at increased risk. These people fall under the following headings:

- Unborn babies
- Children
- Adults at risk

Safeguarding Children

The Children Acts (1989 and 2004) place a duty on the local authority, and other organisations, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area.

This includes the Church, and therefore you have a responsibility in your role to protect children.

The statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children, published in 2018, states that everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play, including faith-based organisations.

Safeguarding Adults

The safeguarding of adults duty appears in the Care Act 2014 and applies to any adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Types of abuse

Abuse is mistreatment by any other person or persons that violates a person's human and civil rights. The abuse can vary, from treating someone with disrespect in a way that significantly affects the person's quality of life, to causing actual physical or mental suffering. Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and can affect one person or more. There are many different types and patterns of abuse and the list below is not intended to be an



exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern:

- Physical
 - Sexual
 - Neglect and omissions of care
 - Emotional and psychological
 - Financial and material
 - Self-neglect
 - Spiritual
 - Grooming
 - Domestic
 - Honour-based
 - Discriminatory
 - Organisational
 - Modern slavery
 - Criminal exploitation
-
- ***Physical abuse***
This can include assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, and being restrained without justifiable reasons. It can also include misuse of a person's medication.

 - ***Domestic abuse***
This is typically an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is, or has been, an intimate partner or family member.

 - ***Sexual abuse***
This includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts which the person has not consented or was pressured into consenting to.

 - ***Psychological and emotional abuse***
This includes someone emotionally abusing or threatening to hurt or abandon a person, stopping them from seeing people, humiliating, blaming, controlling, intimidating, coercing, or harassing a person. It also includes verbal abuse, or an unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks.

 - ***Financial or material abuse***
This includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possession or benefits.



- **Modern slavery**
This encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive, and force individuals into a life of abuse.
- **Discriminatory abuse**
This includes harassment, slurs, taunting, bullying or not being able to access services because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.
- **Organisational abuse**
This concerns poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home or in relation to care provided in one's own home. It can be through neglect, abuse or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.
- **Neglect and acts of omission of care**
This includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Self-neglect**
This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
- **Cyber abuse**
This includes bullying/abuse via the internet including social media.

Where can abuse take place?

Abuse can take place anywhere, including:

- in a person's own home
- in place of worship
- in a residential or nursing home
- in a hospital
- in the workplace
- at a day centre
- at an educational establishment
- in supported housing
- in the street

Abuse in the home

There is an increased risk of abuse at home if:

- The person is isolated and does not have much contact with friends, family or



neighbours or organisations such as schools, medical support

- The person has memory problems or has difficulty communicating
- The person is dependent on someone as a carer
- The person does not get on with their main carer
- The carer is addicted to drugs or alcohol

Who could cause harm?

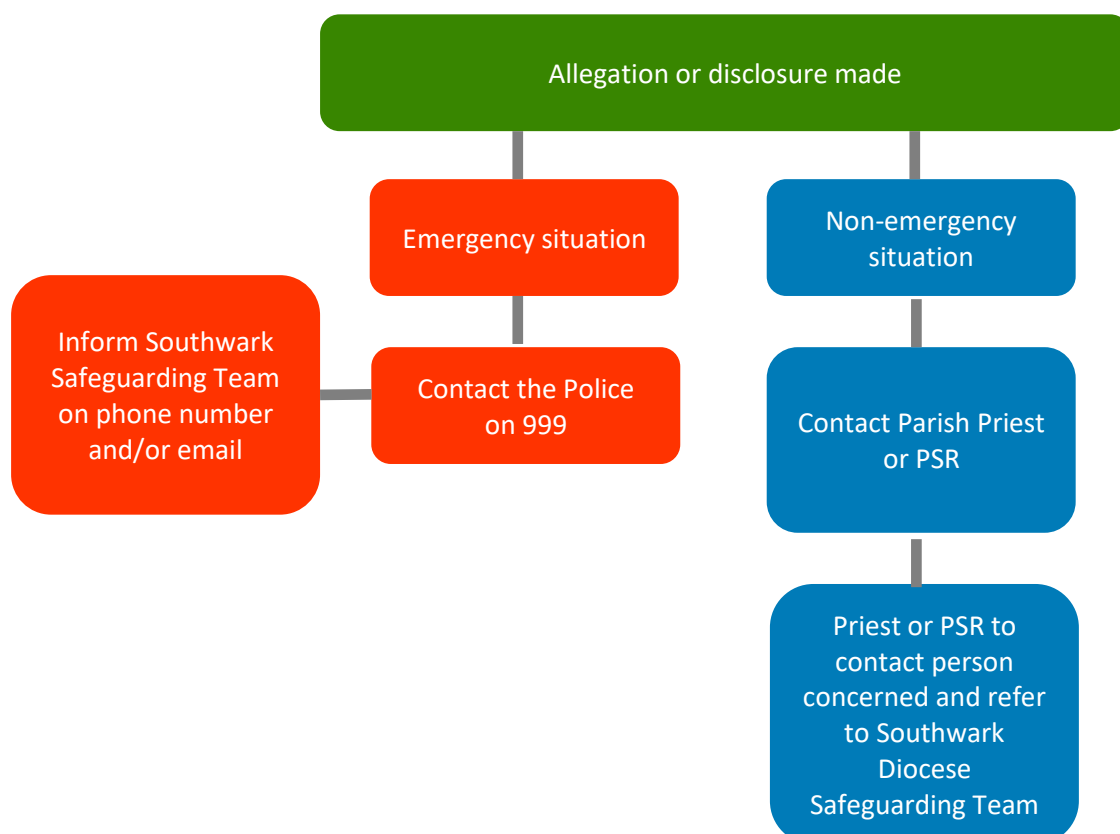
The person causing harm may be known to the person suffering abuse and can include:

- Relative
- Friend
- Neighbour
- Paid care worker / professionals
- Volunteers
- Someone in the community or an organization eg in school, church

As a parishioner or volunteer in St Vincent's what is my responsibility in relation to Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We ask that you remain alert to the safeguarding needs of all parishioners, particularly children and vulnerable adults and report any concerns that you may have, no matter how small the issue might seem on first appearance.

If you think that you have seen abuse, have suspicions or someone discloses to you abuse of any kind, you must report this to the Parish Priest and/or a Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR), or Southwark Diocese Safeguarding Team. As per the following flow chart:





If someone discloses abuse to you:

- Remain calm, accessible, and receptive
- Listen carefully, without interrupting, or passing judgement
- Explain that you need to tell the PSR or ask them to speak to the PSR

PSRs will:

- Allow them to tell their story, without questioning, or putting words in their mouth
- Make it clear that we are taking them seriously. Acknowledge their courage and reassure them that they are right to tell
- Explain what we will do next, and that we will need to advise the Diocese Safeguarding Team
- Explain that the information will only be shared with those who need to know
- Make notes of what was said using their exact words, when, and who was present
- Keep these notes secure, until passing them to Diocese Safeguarding Team
- Inform Diocese Safeguarding Team within 1 working day of the disclosure.
- On a weekend contact the Police on 101 if deemed necessary

Contact details:

Parish Priest and safeguarding lead:

Fr Zammit – 01322 279955

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Jennie Linnett – dartfordstvincentsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Maria Ahmed – dartfordstvincentsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Southwark Diocese Safeguarding Team Office:

Telephone 0207 261 1606 or email at safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

Emergency police – 999

Non-urgent police - 101

Other information:

St Vincent's RC church safeguarding page:

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/safeguarding/>

Southwark Archdiocese Safeguarding pages:

Kent Social Services:

03000 41 11 11 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

03000 41 91 91 (outside of office hours - for emergencies only)

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health>