



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

Safeguarding Policy

1 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **"The Diocese"** refers to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle including its constituent Parishes and Partnerships.
- 1.2 **"Diocesan personnel"** refers specifically to employees, clergy, religious and volunteers.
- 1.3 **"Responsible adults"** are all those in a position of responsibility, whether paid or unpaid, with access to children and/or to adults at risk.
- 1.4 **"Children"** are people under the age of 18 years.
- 1.5 **"Adults at risk"** are people of 18 years or older who have a need for care and support, or who are experiencing or are at risk of, neglect or abuse.
- 1.6 **"CSAS"** is the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service

2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 2.1 This document exists to help Diocesan personnel understand what is expected of them with regard to keeping those in our care safe from harm. It applies to all responsible adults, and relates to all children and adults at risk.

3 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 Every human being has a value which we acknowledge as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness. We believe therefore that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm. We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable people towards whom the Church has a special responsibility.

3.2 The Diocese will undertake appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment for all, by practicing fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children and adults and responding sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm. This is demonstrated by the provision of carefully planned activities, caring for those hurt by abuse, and ministering to and robustly managing those who have caused harm. The Diocese is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church and affirms a 'One Church' approach¹ to safeguarding through the promotion of a sustained culture of constant vigilance.

¹The 'One Church' approach refers to the commitment by the Catholic Dioceses in England and Wales to use the same policies, procedures and standards in relation to safeguarding.

3.3 The Diocese seeks to ensure that its parishes and lay associations of the faithful acting in its name can enable vulnerable people to have peace of mind, knowing they will be cared for and loved by their Christian community. The Diocese does this by having in place arrangements which include:

- Procedures to respond to and report concerns and allegations
- Codes of conduct
- Safer recruitment procedures
- Information sharing arrangements
- Support and supervision of staff and volunteers
- Training on safeguarding

3.4 The procedures to be followed to ensure that the requirements of this policy are met are those to be found in the CSAS Procedures Manual www.csas.uk.net/procedures-manual.

3.5 The 'paramount chief principle', which underpins and is enshrined in child and adult protection legislation, shall be the primary consideration in all matters of safeguarding.

4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The Diocesan Board of Directors is responsible for the creation and review of this policy, and for holding senior management, including the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator (DSC), to account for the effective implementation of the policy.

4.2 The Diocesan Department for Safeguarding is responsible for the implementation and management of this policy and the resulting procedures.

4.3 The DSC is responsible for receiving concerns and disclosures, for referring them as appropriate to relevant statutory agencies, and for reporting to the Diocesan Board and Senior Management.

4.4 The DSC is responsible for ensuring that adequate and appropriate training is available for all Diocesan personnel.

4.5 All Diocesan personnel have an obligation to make prompt reports of safeguarding concerns and disclosures to the DSC.

5 CONTACT DETAILS

Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator

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Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

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Safeguarding Commission Chair

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Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday 020 79011920 admin@csas.uk.net

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

Child Line 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Stop It Now 0808 1000 900 www.stopitnow.org.uk
(Charity to prevent child sexual abuse)

Action on Elder Abuse 0808 808 8141 www.elderabuse.org.uk

Age UK 0800 678 1602 www.ageuk.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247 www.womensaid.org.uk

6 APPROVAL AND AUTHORISATION

Name	Role	Date
Author: Jeff Ledger	Deputy Chief Operating Officer	June 2019
Approved:	Diocesan Board	13 June 2019

7 CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date	Reason	Initials
V2	25 Sept 2019	Email address added	AR