

RESPONDING TO SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Procedure to be followed if there are disclosures, allegations, complaints or suspicions

Imminent risk or danger.

If you encounter a child/adult in a situation where they are in imminent danger, you should act immediately to secure their safety.

Seek medical support if required. Refer to the police on 999 and make a referral to children's social/adult services. Thereafter, inform the Incumbent/PSO of your actions who will in turn inform the DSA.

Hearing a child's / vulnerable adult's disclosure of abuse:

If a child /vulnerable adult asks to talk in confidence DO NOT promise confidentiality. You have a duty to refer someone who is at risk. However, you must not share such information outside of the Incumbent/PSO.

What to do if you suspect a child /adult is at risk or has been abused

Speak to the Safeguarding Officer or Incumbent who will make the referral.

Make a note of the event or disclosure providing as much information as possible. Remember to distinguish between fact and opinion and also what is first-hand knowledge and what has been heard from others (hearsay). Keep your notes concise and factual.

It is not your responsibility nor the responsibility of the PSO or Incumbent to 'investigate' and 'judge' any allegations, but to refer on 'up the chain'. If the PSO/Incumbent are unavailable refer to the DSA or statutory organisation as appropriate.

For out of hours referrals, call the emergency social work team or, if urgent, the police.

Ensure that you notify the Incumbent/Safeguarding Officer who will notify the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Police Emergency Telephone Number 999

Police Non-emergency Telephone Number 101

Children's social services telephone number 0208 461 7379 / 7026 / 7373

(see also Diocesan website)

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers

Lead adviser: Greg Barry

01634 560000

Greg.Barry@rochester.anglican.org

Adviser: Caroline Smith

07768 036590

caroline.smith@rochester.anglican.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Irene Dancer

01689 854765

idstgiles@btinternet.com

Incumbent

Rev. Matthew Hughes

01689 856931

jmath@btinternet.com