

Safeguarding Agreements in Parishes (Who must be informed)

Where there is a safeguarding agreement the following people must be aware and responsible for monitoring the agreement:-

As a minimum it should name the Incumbent (or their successor), Churchwardens (or their successor), Parish Safeguarding Officer (or their successor).

It should also state that should the Parish be in interregnum the Area Dean will take over the role and responsibilities of the Incumbent until a new Incumbent is in situ.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser must be informed of all safeguarding agreements and safeguarding reviews. A copy of each initial agreement and a copy of each review will be sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Following the recommendation of The Social Care Institute for Excellence's (SCIE) Diocesan 2017 Audit, the Diocesan Safeguarding adviser will now sign all safeguarding agreements in order to add credence to the document. To facilitate this process the completed agreement will be sent to the safeguarding team in the Diocesan office by recorded delivery or by a password protected e-mail. Once signed by the diocesan safeguarding adviser it will be returned to a named person in the parish by either of the same safe methods.

Safeguarding agreements will be reviewed yearly as a minimum and more frequently where appropriate.

No one else shall be informed unless the perpetrator/alleged perpetrator break their part of the agreement or it has been mutually agreed by all members of the panel, including the perpetrator/alleged perpetrator. This does not include statutory agencies or safeguarding advisers from other Dioceses/National Church.

Even if the conviction is in the public domain it does not give anyone the right to ignore the confidentiality of the signed agreement.

All agreements and reviews will be kept securely by the Parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. A copy of the signed agreement will be given to the perpetrator/alleged perpetrator.

Even once the ex-offender is no longer on probation, sex offenders register or subject to a court order, any official role in the church will have to be risk assessed by the Safeguarding Executive Committee (SEC). Should the SEC feel that the perpetrator/alleged perpetrator be allowed to undertake the proposed role a safeguarding agreement will be entered into by both the ex-offender and the Parish.

Those who refuse to sign a safeguarding agreement will not be allowed to undertake an official role in the Parish at any time.

PCC members will need to be informed that the Parish has a new safeguarding agreement or that an existing agreement has been reviewed. They do not need to know the name of the perpetrator/alleged perpetrator, but need reassurance that all the House of Bishops' protocols are being adhered to.

Approved by the Safeguarding Executive Committee 24th October 2018