

Stephen Barber
Safeguarding Adviser
Department of Mission

Safeguarding newsletter spring 2016

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Dear Colleague

Safeguarding handbook

Every Incumbent and Parish Safeguarding Officer should have a hard copy of this, which you can obtain from me. There is no charge. It is also available on line [here](#). The Safeguarding Handbook is out of date on DBS checks. Please consult the DBS pages on the safeguarding pages on the Diocesan website, which you can find [here](#).

DBS issues

Queries about the process and notifications of changes of recruiter and verifier should be sent to Susie Sigsworth (susie.sigsworth@oxford.anglican.org 01865 208269). Queries about eligibility for DBS checks should come to me if you can't find the answer in our *DBS eligibility checklist* [here](#).

Annual Safeguarding Report for 2015

This has been completed and can be read [here](#).

Authorised listeners

I am pleased to report that we have now recruited and trained a team of authorised listeners, who are available to see adult survivors of child sexual abuse who wish to talk to someone about the way forward for them. This is not a counselling service but a listening and signposting one. Publicity materials are currently being prepared and will be distributed to each parish when they are ready. If you know of someone who would welcome this service please contact me, preferably by email, with the name and contact details of the person seeking it and I shall put a listener in touch with them.

Open the Book

Many churches are involved in sending volunteers to schools to tell Bible stories under this scheme. They are eligible for DBS checks without barring information, and these should be done if they have not already been.

Images of children, newspapers and social media

Many traditional media publications, such as newspapers including the Diocesan newspaper *The Door*, expect to be able to use images they are sent not only in their mainstream publications but also on social media such as Facebook. In seeking permissions from parents to make and use images of their children please ensure that this aspect is covered, and that appropriate permissions are either obtained or withheld and that the newspaper is advised of the decision. Our guidance note on *Making and publishing*

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images of children has been revised and can be read [here](#) and our *Model policy on social media* has also been revised and can be read [here](#).

Sexting

Sexting is the sending and receiving of sexually explicit messages or images, usually by mobile phone. Many young people as well as adults engage in it. There are several risks associated with it, particularly when carried out by young people. One is that it is a criminal offence both to make and to distribute an indecent picture of a child, and it is still an offence if the child makes an image of himself or herself. Another is that, while sexting may occur in the context of a romantic relationship, once the image is made it can then be distributed as part of what is termed revenge porn or used for blackmail. We have had several recent instances in church youth clubs of young people being involved in sexting. If you know or suspect this please let me know. Advice from the NSPCC on sexting is available [here](#).

Training

There is a general advice note on safeguarding training [here](#). There is also a set of parish safeguarding training materials which we can make available. See details [here](#).

We shall be recasting all our training materials following the introduction of the new curriculum and materials by the national safeguarding team. These will be available in the Diocese from the beginning of 2017.

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