

Stephen Barber
Safeguarding Adviser
Department of Mission

August 2015

Dear Parish Safeguarding Officer

DBS issues

The Safeguarding Handbook is out of date on this. Please consult the DBS pages on the safeguarding pages on the Diocesan website, which you can find [here](#).

The law governing eligibility for DBS checks for work with vulnerable adults has changed. We can now only ask for DBS checks, without barring information, for those working with adults if they meet the frequency requirement. This means they must be working weekly or at least four times in a month. If they are, they can have the check. Otherwise not. The [DBS eligibility checklist](#) has been revised to incorporate this change.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

As you will be aware the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse set up by the Home Office has now started its work. It has its own website, which is <https://www.csa-inquiry.independent.gov.uk/>. Archbishop Justin has asked for it to consider the Church of England at an early stage. This was reported at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33495726>. The national church is setting up its own working group to prepare for this. All Dioceses are also being asked to do the same. In this Diocese we shall be working on a self-audit, to consider our own strengths and areas for improvement and shall be setting up our own working group. We shall let you know about further developments as they occur. Meanwhile, we now have a formal standing instruction that any material or documents which does or might relate to the abuse of children must be retained. It should not be destroyed or taken out of the keeping of the church. Property in such material is that of the church, not of the individuals who create the records.

National safeguarding newsletter

I have attached this to this newsletter. We now have a new national team with a busy programme in front of them. Four new pieces of national guidance have been issued recently:

Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations (2015)

Risk Assessment for Individuals who may Pose Risk to Children or Adults (2015)

Safer Recruitment (2015)

Safeguarding in Religious Communities (2015)

There are links to these in the national newsletter. We shall also be putting them onto our website in the folder of national documents. I have seen them in draft, but shall be checking whether we need to make any changes in our processes as a result.

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused

The government has issued a revised version of this useful guide, which first came out in 2006. It is perhaps slightly too long to give to all children's workers but parish safeguarding officers should certainly print it out and keep it for reference. (When you are printing it, set your printer to print as a booklet.) You can find it in the Forms pack [here](#).

Model policy on social media

In response to requests we have prepared a model policy which you can find on the website in the Forms pack [here](#).

Parish training materials

I have prepared a revised suite of safeguarding training materials which parishes can use themselves if they have someone who feels competent and confident enough to deliver them. There will be options to train workers with children, with vulnerable adults or both. I am attaching the guidance note on them to this newsletter. If you do not have someone suitable, I have a team of voluntary trainers and one may be able to come to you.

NSPCC resources on on-line abuse

The NSPCC has published an overview of online abuse. Content includes: what it is; spotting its signs, symptoms and effects; how to keep children safe; and legislation, policy and practice around online safety.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 09 January 2015

The NSPCC has launched the Share Aware campaign which provides straightforward advice to parents on how to keep their 8-12-year-olds safe on social networks. Resources include: a YouTube video; a parents' guide to social networks; tips for talking to your child about online safety; and a Be ShareAware guide.

Source: [NSPCC Press Release](#) 09 January 2015

Further information:

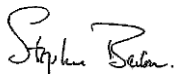
[Share aware: help your child stay safe on social networks](#)

ChildLine has launched the F.A.P.Z. campaign (Fight Against Porn Zombies) to help children and young people who have questions or **concerns about pornography**. Resources include a series of films looking at myths around pornography and answers to young people's questions around porn.

Source: [ChildLine](#) 31 March 2015

The NSPCC has published new advice for parents on how to talk to children about the **risks of online pornography and sexually explicit material**.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 31 March 2015



Stephen Barber,
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
stephen.barber@oxford.anglican.org
01865 208290

Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford OX2 0NB Direct line : (01865) 208290 e-mail : stephen.barber@oxford.anglican.org
Switchboard : Oxford (01865) 208200 Fax : Oxford (01865) 790470

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