



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## 1. DEFINITIONS

**'The Diocese'** refers to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle including its constituent Parishes and Partnerships.

**'Diocesan personnel'** refers specifically to trustees, officers, employees, clergy, religious and volunteers.

**'Responsible adults'** are all those in a position of responsibility, whether paid or unpaid, with access to children and/or to adults at risk.

**'Children'** are people under the age of 18 years.

**'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.

**'CSSA'** is the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency.

## 2. SCOPE

This Policy applies specifically to all Diocesan personnel.

This Diocesan Policy is written in line with the Diocesan values: Trust, Service, Respect, Integrity and Compassion.

## 3. PURPOSE

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.

## 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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. The Diocese believes therefore that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm. The Diocese recognises the personal dignity and rights of people at risk towards whom the Church has a special responsibility.

The Diocese will undertake appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment for all, by practising 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 robustly managing and ministering to 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' approach<sup>1</sup> to safeguarding through the promotion of a sustained culture of constant vigilance.

<sup>1</sup>The '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.

The Diocese seeks to ensure that its parishes and lay associations of the faithful acting in its name can enable people at risk 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

The procedures to be followed to ensure that the requirements of this Policy are met are those to be found in the CSSA Practice Guidance. <http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/national-safeguarding-standards/national-safeguarding-policy/practice-guidance/>

The Paramountcy Principle, which underpins and is enshrined in child and adult protection legislation, shall be the primary consideration in all matters of safeguarding.

## 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Diocesan Board of Directors is responsible for the 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.

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

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.

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

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

## 6. CONTACT DETAILS

### **Acting Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator**

Meriel Anderson

0191 2433305

[safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)

### **Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Board Committee**

Anne O'Brien

0191 243 3305

[safeguarding.commission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.commission@diocesehn.org.uk)

### **Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency**

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

020 79011920

[admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](mailto:admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

### **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

[help@nspcc.org.uk](http://help@nspcc.org.uk)

<b>Child Line</b>	0800 1111	<a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a>
<b>Stop It Now</b> (Charity to prevent child sexual abuse)	0808 1000 900	<a href="http://www.stopitnow.org.uk">www.stopitnow.org.uk</a>
<b>Action on Elder Abuse</b>	0808 808 8141	<a href="http://www.elderabuse.org.uk">www.elderabuse.org.uk</a>
<b>Age UK</b>	0800 678 1602	<a href="http://www.ageuk.org.uk">www.ageuk.org.uk</a>
<b>National Domestic Violence Helpline</b>	0808 2000 247	<a href="http://www.womensaid.org.uk">www.womensaid.org.uk</a>

Responsible Officer	Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Date first approved by Board	June 2019
First Review Date	June 2020 (now September 2021)
Date Review approved by Board	29 September 2021
Next review date	September 2022
Author	Angie Richardson

Detail of specific reviews and key changes made:

Reviewer(s)	Date	Review Actions	Approved by Board
A Richardson	Aug 2021	Amended CSAS to CSSA Diocesan Personnel definition to include Trustees and Officers	29 Sept 2021
K Nugent	Dec 2021	Amended personnel details	n/a