



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 (Genesis 1:27). We believe therefore that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm. We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable people, towards whom the Church has a special responsibility.

The Diocese will follow national policy to create and maintain a safe environment for all, by practicing 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 ministering to and robustly managing 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' approach¹ to safeguarding through the promotion of a sustained culture of constant vigilance.

¹The '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 vulnerable people 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:

<https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/national-safeguarding-standards/national-safeguarding-policy/practice-guidance/>

The 'paramountcy principle', which underpins and is enshrined in child protection legislation, shall be the primary consideration in all matters of child safeguarding. The principle states 'the welfare of children is paramount'.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Diocesan Board of Trustees is responsible for the creation and 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 Department's work is overseen by The Safeguarding Committee which works within its own Terms of Reference and reports to the Diocesan Boards of Trustees.

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

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 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 Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 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 Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator.

6. CONTACTS DETAILS

Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator		
Meriel Anderson	0191 2433305	
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors		
Ian Colling	0191 2433305	safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk
Safeguarding Committee Chair	0191 243 3305	
Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday)	020 79011920	admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

<u>Support Organisations</u>		
Safe Spaces	0300 3031056	https://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk
Stop It Now (Charity to prevent child sexual abuse)	0808 1000 900	www.stopitnow.org.uk
Action on Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141	www.elderabuse.org.uk

Age UK	0800 678 1602	www.ageuk.org.uk
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247	www.womensaid.org.uk
Child Line	0800 1111	www.childline.org.uk
NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000	help@nspcc.org.uk

Detail of specific reviews and key changes made:

Responsible Officer	Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Date first approved by Board	June 2019
First Review date	June 2020 (now September 2021)
Next review date	December 2024
Date Review approved by Board	14 th December 2023
Author	Angie Richardson

Reviewer(s)	Date	Review Actions	Approved by Board
A Richardson	Aug 2021	Amended CSAS to CSSA Diocesan Personnel definition to include Trustees and Officers	December 2023
M Anderson	Feb 2023	Changes in the names of Diocesan personnel	
K Nugent	4 May 2023	Amended contacts and Safeguarding Commission changed to Safeguarding Committee	
M Anderson	14 th December 2023	Amendments to wording.	

