



South Quantock Benefice Safeguarding Policy.

(The United Benefice of West Monkton with Kingston St Mary, Cheddon Fitzpaine and Broomfield Parishes, Somerset.)

Our Mission: to know, share and spread the love of God.

Introduction

Christian communities should be places where all are welcomed and feel safe.

All people have the right to:

- be treated with respect and dignity
- have their privacy respected
- be able to lead as independent a life as possible
- be able to choose how to lead their life
- have the protection of the law
- have their rights upheld regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion or cultural background
- be able to use their chosen language or method of communication
- be heard.

The commitment of the Benefice

We are committed to the care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all people, and especially with regard to the safeguarding and protection of all vulnerable people (a child, young person or vulnerable adult). We will seek to foster a safe, caring community which provides an environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance regarding the dangers of abuse, and where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and find support. We will strive to promote best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse and we are committed to the national church guidance as laid out in "[Promoting a safer church](#)"

The responsibility of the Benefice

The welfare of any vulnerable person is always the primary concern and we will act promptly whenever a concern is raised about a vulnerable person or about the behaviour of any adult in a position of trust or authority. We are also committed to the support of those who have been abused and to listening to the voices of survivors, who can help the church learn lessons from the past. Any allegation, disclosure or statement, something seen or something heard must be recorded and acted upon. Complaints can be taken from alleged victims and third parties.

Areas of responsibility

This Benefice accepts that, through its workers and volunteers, it is responsible for vulnerable people during church activities when in a church building, on church property and other premises being used by the church, and also when in contact with people via social and other media or when home visiting. Responsibility extends to travel between places, when it is organized by the church. However, the church is not responsible for private arrangements.

Whole church responsibility

The safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people is everyone's responsibility, not just parents or those who have formal leadership or caring responsibilities. Procedures and formal processes alone, though essential, will not protect children and adults. The community, including all its members, needs to be aware of the dangers and be prepared to report concerns and take action if necessary.

Recruitment

We will carefully select all those with any responsibility for vulnerable people within the church in line with safer recruitment principles, including taking up references and the use of criminal records checks (DBS). All blemished DBS checks will be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor for advice. A clear DBS form does not guarantee the appointment of a volunteer; and a blemished DBS is not an automatic disqualification. All confidential data is kept locked in the benefice office.

It is the policy of this Benefice that if they reach the criteria:

- all those who regularly work with vulnerable people including those who work on a rota, should have enhanced DBS checks;
- those who work only occasionally will be asked to apply for a DBS check;
- those who manage or supervise people who work with vulnerable groups will be required to be DBS plus Barred List checked.

All those recruited must maintain training in line with diocesan guidance.

Our policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is in line with the diocesan policy. A copy of this is available at <https://w.w.w.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/safe-recruitment>

Who to contact

Benefice safeguarding officers:

Mrs Lucy Hay 01823 451 204 safeguardingsqb@gmail.com

Mrs Samm Barge 07976 415337 safeguardingsqb@gmail.com

Rector: The Rev'd Jim Cox. 01823 802790 (07967 817337) jimcox11@gmail.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Ben Goodhind / Safeguarding Manager 01749 588917;

Email: safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org OR ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org

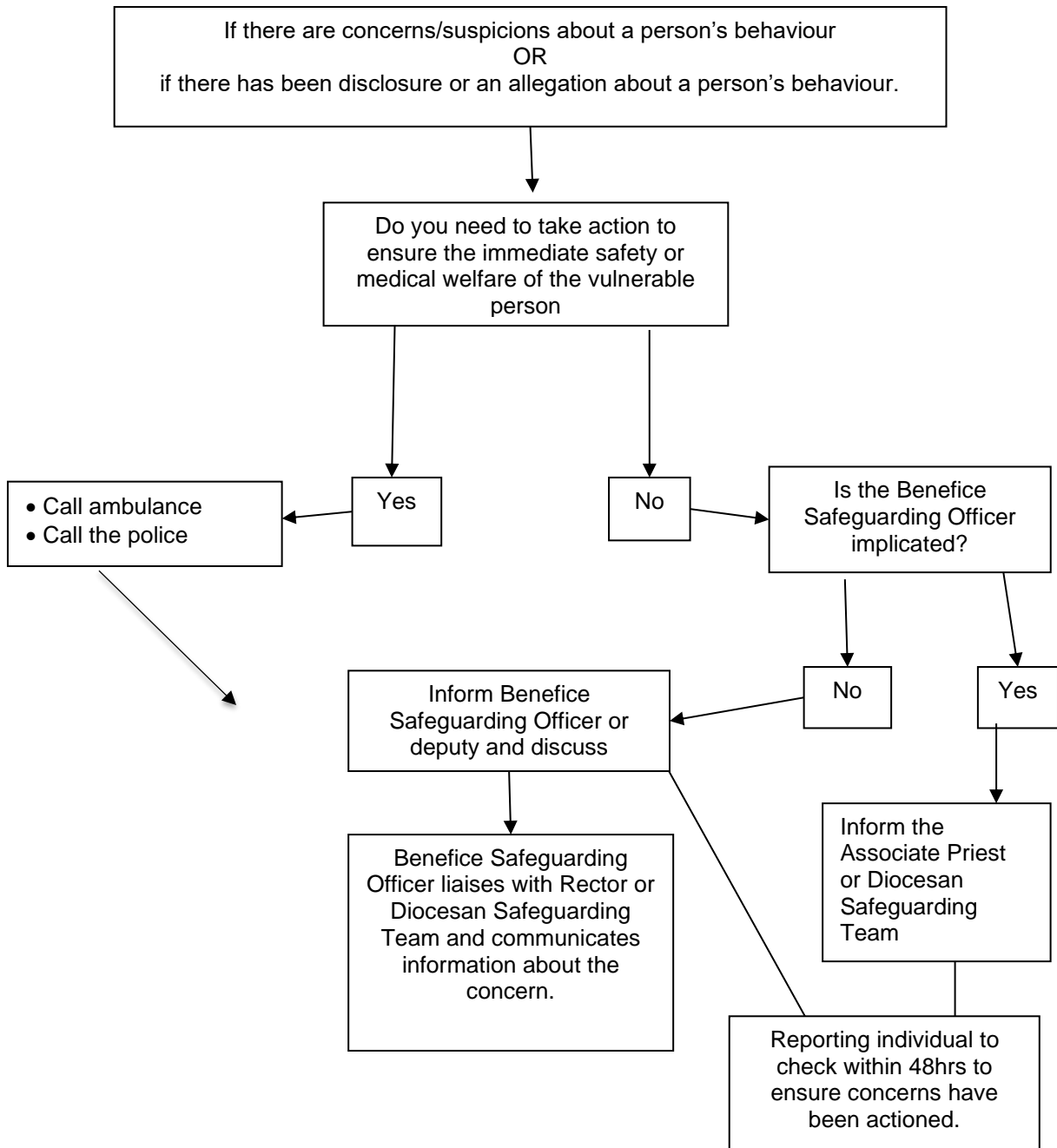
Emergency calls or concerns:- the Diocese of Bath and Wells has partnered with thirtyone:eight to offer out of hours safeguarding support. They operate from 17:00 to 09:00, Monday to Friday, 07:00 to midnight on Saturdays and Sundays, bank holidays and other absences. During these times you are advised to call 0303 003 1111 for any emergency safeguarding queries. Please note this is not manned 24-hours a day, but if you leave a message you will receive a call back as soon as practicable.

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will promote the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It fully accepts and endorses the Children Act 1989 & 2004 & The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. This Benefice agrees to follow the Practice Guidance from the House of Bishops on safeguarding matters, and to adopt the Diocese of Bath and Wells Safeguarding Policies (found at <http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/>)

Concerned about a child or vulnerable adult?

If you are concerned for the immediate safety of a vulnerable person or they are afraid to return home, you must contact the Police (999) or Children Social Care (0300 123 2224) without delay.

Updated 01.03.2024



Remember to involve the person at risk throughout the process wherever possible and gain consent for any referrals to social care if the person has capacity

It is the responsibility of the diocese to report to the Charity Commission of a safeguarding Serious Incident;
(and of the churchwardens or incumbent of a non-safeguarding Serious Incident).

