

RESPONDING TO A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN OR ALLEGATION

If you suspect or witness abuse, or someone discloses a safeguarding concern.

A. The person is in imminent danger or medical need

- Call the police and/or ambulance on 999,
- Record your actions and advise the incumbent or PSO as soon as practicable.

B. The person is likely to be in danger soon after leaving your company

- If person is under 18, call the Police on 101 and/or South Gloucester Social Care (office hours 01454866000, out of office hours 01454615156).
- If an adult over 18, you should not report to agencies unless the person agrees,
- Record your actions and advise the incumbent or PSO as soon as practicable.

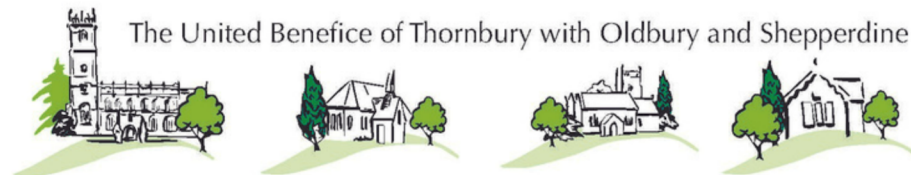
C. Non-emergency

- Ascertain the facts (see below for conduct of any interview),
- Within 24 hours record and report to the incumbent or PSO.

D. Next steps

- The incumbent or PSO will advise the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser within 24 hours.
- The DSA will provide further guidance.

When responding to someone disclosing possible abuse Listen and keep listening. Avoid leading questions. Avoid passing judgement. Do not investigate. Do not contact a person against whom allegations have been made. When speaking with a person under 18 never promise confidentiality. Explain what you are going to do. Contact the appropriate people to report or seek advice. As soon as practicable make a note of all that has happened in as much detail as possible, including names and dates. Date and sign and keep safe.



Keeping our church family safe



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Incumbent: Revd. Joy Ludlow 01454 419229 joyludlow@outlook.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO): Revd Chris Verey 01454 446638 vereychris7@gmail.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Office Hours 01452 835516 Out of office hours 07944 680320

safeguarding@glosdioc.org.uk

www.thornburybenefice.org

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The parishes of Thornbury and Oldbury with Shepperdine follow the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy, "Promoting a Safer Church".

The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is at all times paramount, and will take precedence over all other considerations.

All members of the church family share a responsibility for:

- Promoting and maintaining a safe, caring and open environment in which the health and well-being of everyone is supported and abuse can be prevented;
- Being aware of their responsibility for the safety of children and vulnerable adults in particular;
- Ensuring that anyone can feel that they have permission to speak of any concerns or worries that they may have without fear of being judged;
- Being aware of how to respond promptly and appropriately to any and every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- Caring sensitively for any victims/survivors of abuse, and any other affected persons, but in a way so as not to prejudice any subsequent investigation;
- Being ready to be supportive of any who might be the subject of concerns or allegations, but in a way so as not to prejudice any subsequent investigation.

CODE OF SAFER WORKING PRACTICE

All those working on behalf of the parish with children, young people and adults must:

- Treat all individuals with respect and dignity.
- Ensure that their own language, tone of voice and body language are respectful.
- Ensure that children, young people and adults know who they can talk to about a personal concern.
- Record and report any concerns about a child, young person or adult and/or the behaviour of another worker with their activity leader and/or Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- There is an optout policy for videos and photographs.
- Administer any First Aid with others around.

In addition, for children and young people must:

- Always aim to work with or within sight of another adult.
- Ensure another adult is informed if a child needs to be taken to the toilet.
- Respond warmly to a child who needs comforting but make sure there are other adults around.
- Ensure that the child and parents/carers are aware of any activity that requires physical contact and its nature before the activity takes place.

For fuller guidance refer to the Parish Safeguarding Handbook – accessed at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>