



Domestic Abuse Policy

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm

- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our publicity

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise.

When concerns are raised

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse

Contact Numbers

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, or the care that is being provided

OR

You need to talk to someone about something in our church that isn't right or has upset you

Please get in touch with:

Mary Burdett

Children's Advocate
01223 364458

Sarah Robinson

Safeguarding Officer
07803619872

Piyush Jani

Deputy Officer
07742118754

If you would rather speak to someone outside of the church, please see the contacts below or visit the Diocese Safeguarding website:

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Rebecca Boswell

T: 07904 487912
rebecca.boswell@elydiocese.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

Sarah King

T: 01353 652 735
sarah.king@elydiocese.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Part-time)

Sharon Gage

T: 01353652731
sharon.gage@elydiocese.org

Where immediate danger is likely

Call 999

Helplines

- **Action on Elder Abuse** helpline: 08088088141
- **24-hour National Domestic Violence** helpline: 08082000247
- **NAPAC** offers support and advice to adult survivors of childhood abuse: 08088010331

- **Cruse** bereavement helpline 08088081677
- **FamilyLives** provides support and advice on family issues: 0808800222
- **MACSAS** for people who have been abused by church officers: 08088010340
- **Samaritans** for people struggling to cope and needing someone to talk to: 116123

Sources of support for victims and families of abuse

Safeline Support for survivors of Sexual abuse.

SupportLine *Particularly aimed at those who are isolated, at risk, vulnerable and victims of any form of abuse.*

Websites

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.womensaid.org.uk

www.restoredrelationships.org

www.stopitnow.org.uk

www.elderabuse.org.uk

www.barnardos.org.uk

www.modernslavery.co.uk

www.spiritualabuse.com <https://carers.org>

**Requires final PCC approval at next meeting