

There are different types of abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect (including acts of omission and self neglect)
- Emotional / Psychological Abuse
- Institutional Abuse
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Financial / material abuse
- Domestic Violence/Abuse
- Sexual exploitation,
- Modern slavery and trafficking
- Spiritual Abuse

Abuse can happen anywhere and we should be alert to the possibility that it can happen in our church communities however uncomfortable that makes us feel.

Everyone who works or volunteers in a role that supports people has a responsibility for keeping those people safe. No single professional can have a full picture of a person's needs and circumstances and if children, adults and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

"Good safeguarding practice supports the development of safer expressions of care to all and underpins the love and welcome of God for all people"

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons.

Abuse is always harmful.

Not everyone can protect themselves from harm.

RESPONDING TO A CONCERN

If you suspect or believe someone has suffered or is likely to suffer abuse of any kind or is at risk of harm you should **ALWAYS take action!**

Think **RED ALERT**

Report your concerns in confidence to someone who can help. (see contact section of this pocket guide)

Ensure that the immediate safety and health needs of the individual are met.

Dial 999 or 112 in an emergency!

Advise your PCC Safeguarding Coordinator and/or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. **Always report concerns as soon as possible.**

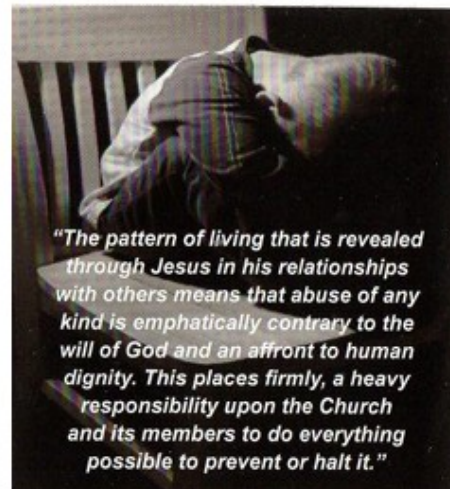
Listen calmly and carefully to an individual telling you what they have experienced.

Elicit facts without being judgemental and don't try to make contact with the alleged perpetrator.

Refer to your safeguarding guidance documents

Take a note of what you saw, what was said and any actions you took. Write this down as soon as possible, sign and date your account.

Abuse continues because of the secrecy that surrounds it



"The pattern of living that is revealed through Jesus in his relationships with others means that abuse of any kind is emphatically contrary to the will of God and an affront to human dignity. This places firmly, a heavy responsibility upon the Church and its members to do everything possible to prevent or halt it."

This means in our Church
Safeguarding is
everybody's business!



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REMEMBER YOU ARE A RESPONDER NOT AN INVESTIGATOR

- ✓ Do give the person an opportunity to tell their story.
- ✓ Do let the person know who you intend to contact for help.
- ✓ Do ensure that you take action to keep the individual safe from harm. Doing nothing is not an option!
- ✓ Do ask for help and support from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and your Parish Officers. You do not need to carry this alone.
- ✓ Do ask open questions. If you need to clarify what has been said.
- ✓ Do let someone know where you are. If possible, try not to be entirely alone with the person.

- ✗ Don't be judgemental or appear shocked at what is disclosed.
- ✗ Don't promise to keep conversation or concerns to yourself.
- ✗ Don't try to contact or approach the alleged perpetrator or make judgements about them.
- ✗ Don't tell anyone who doesn't need to know

A POCKET GUIDE