

Widcombe PCC (Charity Commission registration number 1182372)

Policy Statement on Responding to every Safeguarding Concern or Allegation

Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or non-current abuse to the notice of the Church will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and practice guidance.

All safeguarding work will be recorded in line with the House of Bishops safeguarding practice guidance.

All suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that reach the threshold for reporting to the statutory authorities will be reported via the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser to the appropriate statutory authorities. This will be done irrespective of the status of the person.

All church officers will cooperate with the statutory authorities in all cases.

In responding to concerns or allegations of abuse relating to church officers, the Church will act in accordance with the requirements of criminal, civil and ecclesiastical law and so will respect the rights and uphold the safeguards afforded in these, both to the victim/survivor and the subject of concerns or allegations.

Widcombe PCC has undertaken to follow the procedure stated in Section 7 of the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook (2018) when responding to safeguarding concerns or allegations:

<https://tools.parishdashboards.org.uk/storage/app/media/Resources/parish-safeguarding-handbook.pdf>

Date: 2.7.21