

THE REVISED SAFEGUARDING POLICY DOCUMENT EXPLAINED

Background

The document was shared with casework supervisors for discussion in their quadrants. The level of feedback was not extensive with the most notable comments were received from representatives in the northeast and the south-west quadrants. The overall response indicated that practitioners welcomed the slimmed down version of the policy and the removal of intricate procedural details to the appendices.

The Survivor Policy group provided an extensive response on the proposed changes to the policy and made clear that the terminology to describe people who have experienced abuse in the policy will include both the words victim and survivor with a policy position of ask etiquette so that people are empowered to determine the labels applied to them. This has been actioned throughout the revised policy document. Group members also made clear the need to include the views of survivors when reviewing a safeguarding contract. They also welcomed the introduction of low-level concerns.

Documented changes

The previous policy document included seven sections over one hundred and eighty-six pages. The newly revised policy also contains seven sections but reduced to one hundred and thirty-one pages. The comprehensive review puts the user of the document at its heart with a starting position of the Church's understanding of safeguarding and the many forms harm can take. The previous detail in respect of health and safety and data protection are removed from the document and, in the case of the later, placed in an appendix. Similarly, much of the procedural elements of the document have been removed to the appendices at the end of the document.

The table below presents a compare and contrast table to highlight the changes in brief.

Table 1

Content	Previous Policy	Content	Revised Policy
SECTION 1	Introduction	SECTION 1	Introduction
SECTION 2	Safeguarding Policy Statement	SECTION 2	Safeguarding Policy Statement
SECTION 3	Safeguarding organisational structure and responsibilities	SECTION 3	Safe Working Practices with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.
SECTION 4	Procedures for responding well to safeguarding incidents	SECTION 4	Responding well to Safeguarding Incidents
SECTION 5	Procedures for the management of safeguarding information	SECTION 5	Safeguarding Organisational Structure and Responsibilities
SECTION 6	Procedures Promoting Safer Practice	SECTION 6	Practice Guidance
SECTION 7	Practice Guidance	SECTION 7	Information Sharing

Section 4 Responding Well to Safeguarding Incidents

Page 22 - Introduction of Low-Level Concerns policy to prevent escalation of safeguarding concerns to serious incidents as in line with sector standard good practice.

Appendix 9 - SAFEGUARDING TRAINING ATTENDANCE LIST

Page 124 - Two new groups added to the list of core attendees: those with responsibility for supervision; and, circuit stewards.