

Parish of Wombwell Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

This policy statement underpins all safeguarding work within the Church and strives to drive and improve safeguarding practice.

As a Parish we will ensure that:

- All parish/church officers have access to this Policy Statement
- The Policy Statement is promoted and publicised
- The church safeguarding message is communicated as reflected in the policy
- The Parish complies at all times with the principles of the Church of England policy and practice guidance 'Responding well to Domestic Abuse'

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 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, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity 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 in the following ways:

In all our activities – we will value, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse

In our publicity material we will raise awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse

When concerns are raised we will:

- ensure that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help
- work with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church/parish community
- comply with the Disclosure Flowchart as detailed within this policy document

In our care we will:

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

if anyone has any concerns or needs to talk to anyone they should contact:

**William Ward – Parish Safeguarding Officer
Dr Andrew Mellor – Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Contact Numbers

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Legal Support (National Centre for Domestic Violence): 0844 8044 999
Provides a free, fast, emergency injunction service for victims of domestic abuse

Male Victims: (Respect): 0808 810 0327

Helpline for domestic abuse in same sex relationships: 0800 999 5428

Social Services: 01226 770770

For Immediate Action

South Yorkshire Police/Ambulance: 999 – if you are witnessing a violent incident or if the person needs medical care

Be aware that the intervention may heighten risk, but it is important to explore how to ensure people are safe. The safety of children is paramount. If children are involved, a referral to Children's Services needs to be made in addition to calling the police; if possible, encourage the victim to make the referral themselves, perhaps supporting them through the process.

Approval

This policy was approved by the PCC of Wombwell on 5th October, 2017
Reviewed May 2018

Signed.....
Chair of the PCC

Disclosure Flowchart

