

## DIOCESAN SYNOD

Title: **NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

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### I. INTRODUCTION

As part of the Church response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) we have been asked whether dioceses have adopted the various national safeguarding policies and practice guidance, listed below.

Implicitly we have been adopting these policies and guidelines because they are effectively mandatory and our policy and guidance material has been and continue to be updated where necessary. There are certain elements where we can sign up to the intent but need to recognise implementation will take time (e.g. face to face training of thousands of volunteers) or are practically difficult (e.g. fire proof safes).

### 2. NATIONAL POLICIES

The relevant policies and guidelines highlighted by the National Church audit are as follows, with weblinks included should you wish to read the specific content:

<b>Policies and practice documents regarding <u>safeguarding</u> and the protection of children</b>		
1.	Protecting all God's Children: The Policy for Safeguarding Children in the Church of England, 4th edition (2010) <a href="#">Protecting All God's Children</a>	
2.	Safeguarding Guidance for Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships (24 June 2015) <a href="#">Safeguarding Guidance for Single Congregation LEPS</a>	
3.	Promoting a Safe Church (safeguarding policy for adults) 2006 <a href="#">Promoting a Safe Church</a>	
4.	Practice Guidance: Safeguarding in Religious Communities (24 June 2015) <a href="#">Safeguarding in Religious Communities</a>	
<b>Policies and practice documents regarding the <u>training</u> of staff and volunteers</b>		
5.	Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework (12 January 2016) <a href="#">Learning &amp; Development Practice Guidance</a>	

<b>Policies and practice documents regarding <u>recruitment, vetting and disclosure checking</u></b>		
6.	Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment (24 June 2015) <a href="#">Safer Recruitment</a>	
<b>Policies and practice documents regarding <u>responding to allegations of child sexual abuse</u></b>		
7.	Practice Guidance: Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations Relating to Church Officers (24 June 2015) <a href="#">Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations</a>	
8.	Practice Guidance: Risk Assessment for Individuals who may Pose Risk to Children or Adults (24 June 2015) <a href="#">Risk Assessment for Individuals</a>	
9.	Responding to Domestic Abuse (guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility, 2006) <a href="#">Responding to Domestic Abuse</a>	
10.	Responding well to those who have been sexually abused: Policy and guidance for the Church of England (2011) <a href="#">Responding Well</a>	
<b>Policies or documents relating to <u>inter agency cooperation and information sharing</u></b>		
11.	Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church (24 June 2015) <a href="#">Safeguarding Records</a>	

Members should note that these policies and guidelines are currently being revised and thus there is the possibility for a significant amount of change in the future. Our Safeguarding Team is fully engaged with this process and will ensure that our policies, guidance, training and advice for parishes are up to date on the website. Further, the team will communicate significant changes to parishes as appropriate.

Further updates, where necessary, will also be provided to the Synod.

At its most recent meeting the Bishop's Council resolved that: as far as reasonably practicable, this diocese should adopt and work towards implementing the current suite of national safeguarding policies and practice guidance.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

This Synod TAKE NOTE of this report