

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton CDSC

Handout: Answers to Safeguarding Questionnaire

Introduction:

The CDSC core team and volunteers are committed to 'safeguarding' as an integral part of the life and ministry of the church which is supported by and is in compliance with the national Policies and Procedures of the CSAS, [the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service] and the NCSC [The National Catholic Safeguarding Service] together with the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton's 'Safeguarding Guidelines'. We are committed to ensure that all are kept safe from harm and abuse striving towards a culture of Safeguarding.

Most of our activities do not come under the diocesan guidelines for requiring completion of the threefold 'confidential safeguarding and DBS disclosure and identity verification process.

You are all required to read a copy of the document: 'the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton's 'Safeguarding Guidelines' available on the Diocesan website and to adhere to them.

Questions:

Q1. What is safeguarding?

A1. Safeguarding is about Keeping people safe from harm?

Q2. Which two groups of people are considered to be especially vulnerable?

A2. Children and vulnerable adults.

Q3. How would you define a vulnerable child?

A3. Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday[Guidelines page 5].

Q4. How would you define a vulnerable adult?

A4. An 'adult at risk is any person aged 15 years or older who may need care services because of a mental, physical or learning disability or because of age or illness may be unable to take care of themselves, or to protect themselves from harm or from being exploited. Personal circumstances and lifestyle may also cause adults to be vulnerable in some situation, either permanently or temporarily'.
[Guidelines page 7].

Q5. If you have a vulnerable child or adult in your group, what steps should you take to keep them safe from harm?

A5. In the Guidelines, see the section on child abuse on page 6.

'Do not pray with under-age children alone-their parent must be present and give permission. If a child is presented to you as bad/evil/in need of prayer because of their behaviour, this is a Child protection Issue, and no praying should take place' [see Diocese of Portsmouth Policy for prayer ministry, June 2019].

Do not allow photographs to be taken of them.

Q6. What is adult abuse?

A6. 'Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons'....Any type of abuse may be perpetrated against an adult at risk as a result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance'. [see Guidelines what is abuse page 8].

Q7. Name some forms of abuse. There are 9 forms of abuse;

A7. Physical, sexual, psychological and emotional, financial or material, institutional, spiritual, neglect and acts of omission [Page 8 Guidelines].

Q8. What should you do if you suspect abuse or if abuse is disclosed to you?

A8. There are three key things you must do: Listen, record and refer.

Listen, without making judgements or asking leading question

Record, make a written record of the matter and sign and date it.

Refer the matter appropriately. You have a legal responsibility under the 2014 Care Act to refer a person if you suspect abuse or they disclose abuse to you. The 2014 Care Act guidance states that front line workers and volunteers should always share their safeguarding concerns with their safeguarding lead in the first instance.

'Do not under any circumstances alert the alleged abuser, earth directly or indirectly to what has happened. This is very important' [Guidelines page 10].

The safeguarding lead appointed for our diocesan CDSC is:

Margaret McGettrick

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Q9. There are some particular safeguarding guidelines to follow when conducting prayer ministry. Can you think of some of them?

A9. Our CDSC Arundel and Brighton guidelines for prayer ministry should be followed at all times. These are:

There should be no prayer ministry to anyone under 18 without parental permission.

Volunteers should always pray in pairs with at least one other person of the same sex as the person being ministered to, if possible.

Prayer ministry should be performed with the supplicant seated to prevent potential injury to them if they have the experience of 'Resting in the Spirit'.

The person being prayed with should be asked if they would like prayer ministry.

If the person being prayed with has not experienced prayer ministry before, the two prayers should introduce themselves and one should offer a brief explanation of what will happen. The person being prayed with should be asked what they would like the prayer for. Not all prayer requests are for healing. There are many difficult situations for which people need prayer.

'Touching' such as the 'laying on of hands' on the head or a gentle resting on the shoulder is appropriate. However permission should always be sought to do so.

After prayer ministry confidentiality, should be adhered to. In the event that a disclosure of abuse is made, the person making it should be given an explanation of why you have a legal duty to refer the disclosure to the relevant authority.

Avoid being together in private when offering prayer ministry especially so, if you are ministering to someone of the opposite sex.

Be careful about what you say and how you say it. Someone else may misinterpret your action/s no matter how well intentioned.

Q10. What steps might you need to take to secure a safe environment for your activities through the CDSC?

A10. You need to do a risk assessment to identify risks and hazards both indoor and outdoors, including equipment materials and procedures. You must evaluate the risk or hazard and those who may be put at risk and identify the action to eliminate the risk or minimise the risk and identify the person responsible for taking that action [NCAS document 'Guidance–Safeguarding and the Ministry of Healing'].

You should be aware of the evacuation procedures in the case of a fire and share these with those attending as well as to inform of whereabouts of the toilets and disabled toilets. You should also ensure that there is a first aid box readily available.

