**Holy Trinity Tewkesbury Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Safeguarding Report (April 2024)**

Author: Duncan de Gruchy, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Safeguarding continues to be a key priority in the life of Holy Trinity Tewkesbury. Together with Gloucester Diocese, we are committed to providing training, advice, guidance and support to reduce risk and improve the physical, mental and spiritual outcomes of those we serve.

Holy Trinity continues to have 3 Safeguarding Officers as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Name*** | ***Role*** | ***Responsible for*** |
| Duncan de Gruchy | PSO | Adults, Children & Young People |
| Liz Williams | Safeguarding Officer | Adults |
| Liz Walker | Safeguarding Officer | Children & Young People |

Key points to note since the last ACPCM Safeguarding Report (April 2023) include:

* Rob Burcombe has stood down from role as Safeguarding Officer for Vulnerable Adults – we thank him for all his contributions to this and his work in the various associated ministries.
* Over the year, volunteers have raised 3 safeguarding concerns. Each have been dealt with, and Diocesan advice sought where appropriate:
  + 1 of a potential (but not) allegations nature
  + 1 of safeguarding concerns of a vulnerable adult
  + 1 disclosure by a young person

No further action has been required of any of them and the Diocese are very satisfied with how they have been handled. The concerns raised illustrate how the culture of safeguarding, and people’s vigilance is improving all the time – THANK YOU everyone for all you do to keep our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe.

* The bulk of volunteers requiring DBS certificates and Safeguarding Training have received this meaning our compliance is in better shape than it was this time last year! Thank you especially to Helen Hart for her relentless work on this and to Peter Duncan for his support to her in this task.
* Continuing to work on the Safeguarding Action Plan. The most significant (and ongoing) piece of work on this is updating the list of Church activities. The list is comprehensive and up-to-date, but still some work is needed to complete the monitoring task of all the associated diligence checks (ie risk assessments and insurance arrangements etc).
* Policies – both Safeguarding Policies (ie Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy, and Adults at Risk Policy) have been updated with minor changes as follows:
  + Update to cover page to include cross references with other policies
  + Updated reference to Working Together to Safeguard Children (Dec 2023) document
  + Update on Church list of arranged activites (to include all groups)
  + Update to Safer Recruitment statement to include volunteers
  + Update to definitions of Types of Abuse (for clarification and avoidance of repetition)
  + Update to Other Useful Numbers/Contacts
  + Ex-Offenders Policy now included as appendix to both Safeguarding Policies

To meet our annual obligations, I propose that both Safeguarding Policies (ie Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy, and Adults at Risk Policy) are formally accepted at this meeting.

* The Church of England’s National Safeguarding Team have recently created and published a set of 5 National Safeguarding Standards as follows:
  + ***Culture, Leadership and Capacity****: Church bodies have safe and healthy cultures, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high-quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.*
  + ***Prevention****: Church bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.*
  + ***Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk****: Risk assessments, safety plans and associated processes are of a high quality and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working.*
  + ***Victims and Survivors:****Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively meeting their needs, including their search for justice and helping their healing process.*
  + ***Learning, Supervision and Support:****All those engaged in safeguarding-related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.*

PCC have looked at one of these (Safer Working Practices) and aim to look at all 5 over the coming 2-3 years.

* Training has been delivered to 3 tranches of volunteers (in June 23 and January 24) and is reportedly well received. We can now offer training in a variety of ways to facilitate access to meet most people’s needs. The aim is to make the face-to-face training more regular … look for details in the weekly HTT Update!

Actions moving forward:

* Continue to Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and create an action plan from any issues identified – especially relevant training for all groups and developing a list of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults.
* In line with the Safeguarding Policy, ensure all staff and volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults have completed the necessary training within the last 3 years.
* Develop online record management system for secure storage of our safeguarding records.