

Diocese of Derby Safeguarding Team
Our commitment to Victims and
Survivors of Church related abuse

Introduction

We understand that speaking about experiences of abuse can feel frightening, overwhelming, or emotionally exhausting. This may be the case whether the abuse happened recently or many years ago. You are in control of when, how, and how much you choose to share. When you are ready to talk, you will be listened to with care and taken seriously. We will work with you to help you feel as safe and supported as possible.

If you contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team by telephone or email and leave a message, we will respond as soon as possible, usually on the same working day. If you contact us outside office hours or at the weekend, our website¹ includes details of organisations you can contact for support at those times.

We will provide clear, honest, and accessible information, and give you time and space to think through what feels right for you. We will not pressure you to make decisions. If you choose to do so, we can support you in reporting your concerns to the Police or other statutory agencies and offer appropriate support through any subsequent processes or proceedings.

We will explain Church of England processes, including our complaints process, in a clear and transparent way. We will take time to answer your questions so that you understand what to expect and are able to make informed choices.

Information you share with us will be treated sensitively and respectfully. We will aim to keep information confidential wherever possible. In some circumstances, information may need to be shared, for example if there are concerns about your safety or the safety of others, or if there is an ongoing Police investigation. We will seek to be open with you about this and explain our responsibilities clearly.

You may also choose to speak with someone within your local church or parish, such as the Parish Safeguarding Officer or a member of the clergy. This is entirely your choice, and you should only do so if it feels safe and right for you.

We acknowledge support pathways must recognise the diverse experiences of survivors. Services should be inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of individuals from minoritised and underserved groups, who may face additional barriers to disclosure and support.

External Support

We recognise that if you have a lived experience of abuse connected with the Church, you may prefer to speak first with someone who is not part of this Diocese. This is completely understandable, and you are entitled to choose the support that feels safest and most helpful for you.

Contacting the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

There may be exceptional circumstances where we need to make contact because information has come to light that suggests there may be an ongoing risk, or where there are concerns about criminal offences that need to be shared with the Police or other statutory agencies. These responsibilities are taken seriously and are guided by safeguarding law and policy.

No victim or survivor will be contacted by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, the Police, or the local authority without careful consideration. Wherever possible, contact will only be made when a clear plan is in place to ensure that appropriate care, support, and safeguarding arrangements are available.

Our priority in these situations is the safety and wellbeing of those affected. We will seek to act in a way that is sensitive, proportionate, and focused on offering immediate and appropriate support.that is sensitive, proportionate, and focused on offering immediate and appropriate support.

Support we can offer

For those who have reported Church related abuse that took place within the Diocese of Derby or at Derby Cathedral, we are able to arrange support in line with the Church of England guidance Responding Well, a guide for victims and survivors of Church based abuse.

This support may include access to therapeutic support, a dedicated support person, spiritual or pastoral support if this is wanted, and where appropriate, an apology. Counselling and therapeutic support may be funded on a case by case basis, based on individual need and circumstances.

You are not required to accept any support that is offered. We recognise that every survivor's experience and needs are different. We will work at your pace, listen to what matters to you, and support you to consider the choices available so that you can decide what feels most helpful and right for you at any given time.

We also recognise that Churches can be places where people disclose experiences of abuse that happened outside the Church. In these circumstances, we can offer advice and guidance to you and to your Church and provide signposting to external organisations and specialist services that may be better placed to offer support.

If you feel that you need more specialist or additional support, you are encouraged to speak with the Safeguarding Team. We will work with you to help you access the most appropriate support for your needs.

Intermediate and Crisis Support contacts

Emergency Services – 999 (immediate danger)

Local Authority Social Services

Derby City Council

Childrens 01332 641172

Adults 01332 642855

Out of Hours 01332 956606

Derbyshire County Council

Call Derbyshire 01629 533190

Out of Hours 01629 532600

NHS 111 – urgent medical or mental health advice

Samaritans – National number 116 123 offering 24/7 emotional support

Samaritans (Derby and District) - 0330 09 5717 - www.samaritans.org

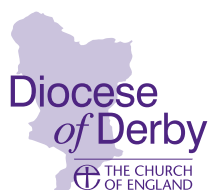
Offer advice by phone, email or 1:1 and a self-help app to support individuals who are feeling suicidal and desperate.

National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK – 0800 587 0800 www.spuk.uk open from 6pm until midnight. A compassionate and understanding lifeline for those struggling with mental well-being.

More details of specialist support services are available on the Diocese of Derby website www.derby.anglican.org/safeguarding

These include:

- General Survivor support
- Domestic Abuse support
- Sexual Violence and Rape support
- Faith Based Abuse (Specialist)
- Children and Young People support
- Specialist Support for Minoritised and Underserved Groups



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