

St Mary's, Tamerton Foliot Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

The St. Mary's Parochial Church Council fully recognizes and accepts the Diocese of Exeter Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance as approved by Diocesan Synod on 20 March 2021 and commits to complying with the current Church of England and Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance. In so doing we will comply with the secular multi-agency safeguarding procedures relating to children and young people and adults experiencing or at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

We are committed to:

Promoting a Safer environment and culture within our Parish and in our Parish activities by adhering to safe working practices and acknowledge the principle that safeguarding is everyone's business.

In addition, we will ensure that any individual organization renting/using our premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults is aware of this, our Safeguarding Policy, and aware of their own individual responsibilities to have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place, including safer recruitment.

Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibilities related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church in accordance with the extant House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment: Practice Guidance.

We will ensure those appointed are aware of the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding Policies and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. We will support them by ensuring they receive Diocesan safeguarding training commensurate with their role and that they are fully aware of and have access to the practice guidance.

Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation in accordance with the statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the Diocesan safeguarding practice guidance.

We will ensure that any complaint made regarding a vulnerable person, who may have been harmed or is in significant danger, will be reported immediately and we will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the church community or any other person.

Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.

We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation and provide them with details of local and national support agencies.

Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.

We will work with others to ensure the appropriate support for them and those affected. Where that person is considered to pose a risk to others, we will work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor to mitigate any identified risk.

Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

We will endeavour to offer pastoral care and support whilst ensuring any risk has been assessed and is being managed in accordance with House of Bishops' policy and guidance and in collaboration with the statutory agencies and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

Safeguarding representative

We will ensure that there is an identified person/s to be the Parish Safeguarding Representative/s who will be suitably recruited and trained, and is aware of their role and responsibilities, and who will be the point of contact for any concerns.

We have appointed Mrs Gillian Camp as our Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Guidance

Copies of Diocesan and parish guidelines and procedures are held and can be accessed in the folder kept at the rear of the Church.

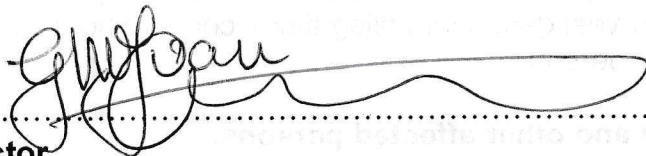
Review

This policy will be formally reviewed annually and a copy shared with the Archdeacon. The next review will take place at the PCC meeting in July 2026.

Date of Adoption


The PCC of this Church reviewed, agreed and adopted the above Policy at its meeting on 22nd July 2025

Signed



Rector

Churchwarden..........**Andy King**

Churchwarden..........**Susanne Burnett**

Date10/8/25.....

Safeguarding Policy principles specific to the parish of St. Mary's, Tamerton Foliot

For the purposes of this policy: Children and Young People relates to anyone under 18. Vulnerable Adult refers to any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of him or herself, or to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Principles

The church community of St Mary's Tamerton Foliot commits to support, nurture, and protect the safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable **recognising that this is the responsibility of the whole church community.**

We are fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures.

We will act in an open, transparent and accountable way and work in partnership with the appropriate statutory bodies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

This means we will ensure that those involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults in St. Mary's are suitable for the role, that they know what the role entails and that they are supported during their work. All helpers whether volunteering or paid, who are involved with children and young people's work in St. Mary's, will first have to be screened in accordance with the Church of England safer recruitment policy.

Everyone involved with children or young people in St Mary's will need a DBS check.

We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.

We will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a child.

The church will maintain appropriate insurance cover for all activities by the church.

Our policy and actions will be consistent with the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2018 and the Diocese of Exeter's Safeguarding Policy (Current Version dated 20 March 2021).

This policy excludes any external groups hiring the hall.

The PCC in consultation with church groups will review the policy and procedures annually.

The Safeguarding Officer and Church Advocates will be appointed annually at the APCM.

Basic Safeguarding

St Mary's church runs a variety of groups involving children and vulnerable adults.

Groups are run for families together and children without adults within the church buildings and further afield. An appropriate level of risk assessment will be undertaken for each planned activity. We will ensure that each volunteer has been recruited to the correct level before involvement in the activity.

As far as possible neither a volunteer nor a paid worker should be alone with children or young people where he or she cannot be seen. This may mean leaving doors open or more than one group working in the same room.

No one should ever promise confidentiality to a child, young person or vulnerable adult, in case they later need to disclose information to safeguard against harm. Access to and from venues in which groups meet should be safe and well-lit.

Recruitment

Those assisting with tasks where Children and Young People or Vulnerable Adults are present will abide by the safer recruitment guidelines of the Church of England, as below:

They will be required to obtain enhanced DBS clearance, which will be repeated every 3 years.

They will be given a copy of our Safeguarding Guidelines to read.

They will be given a role description.

They will be given a copy of our volunteer agreement (**see appendix A**) to sign to say they have read and will comply with the safeguarding policy and will attend training as appropriate.

They should complete mandatory Safeguarding training within 3 months of recruitment. This training should as a minimum be the Diocesan C0 Safeguarding Course or other Diocesan Safeguarding Course as appropriate to role.

Leaders who approach or are approached by persons wishing to volunteer to work with children or young people should notify the Church Safeguarding Officer so that appropriate clearance and training can be arranged as soon as possible.

All documents will be kept securely by the safeguarding officer.

Training

All new volunteers where possible should attend a training event within 3 months of beginning. This should involve an exposition of the Safeguarding Policy and some basic principles of Safeguarding. **Every three years**, all volunteers working with children and young people's work in St. Mary's should attend a training event at which some aspects of Safeguarding are explored in depth and any changes in policy are explained.

If a disclosure is made or abuse is suspected, initial support will be given from leaders within the church, child advocates, and the Church Safeguarding Officer.

Responding to concerns flow chart. - See appendix B

Code of Behaviour for those working with children & young people

DO:

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Remember, your actions may be misinterpreted, no matter how good your intentions.
- Encourage young people and adults to point out attitudes and behaviour which they do not like.
- Avoid one-to-one situations, or at least be within sight or hearing of others:
- If a young person asks to speak to you about a private matter, you should not withdraw to a place out of the sight of others. As far as possible neither a volunteer nor a paid worker should be alone with children or young people where he or she cannot be seen. This may mean leaving doors open or the groups working in the same room.
- If a young person calls at your home, ensure that you are appropriately dressed to receive them, try to ensure that someone else is around, and never take them into a bedroom
- Report any concerns you may have about the safety and welfare of children and young people to the Safeguarding Representative.
- If you see another member of the team acting in ways which may be misconstrued, be prepared to speak to them or your group leader about your concerns. Leaders should encourage an atmosphere of mutual support and care which allows all team members to be comfortable enough to discuss inappropriate attitudes or behaviour.
- Reject, kindly but firmly, inappropriate physical approaches (reject the physical expression, not the person).
- Be especially careful when involved in activities involving physical contact (lose the game rather than be at risk of accusation)
- Avoid physical contact. (At the very least, remember the swimming costume rule i.e. do not touch areas which would be covered by a swimming costume).
- Only physically restrain children and young people, using the minimum amount of force possible, when they or others would otherwise be in danger of harm.
- Inform the parent/carer about any incident as soon as possible.

DON'T:

- Rely on your good name to protect you or believe it could never happen to you.
- Agree to keep a secret.
- Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour (e.g. tantrums or crushes).
- Have inappropriate physical or emotional contact with others.
- Initiate physical contact with a young person.
- Touch bare skin. (Where physical contact is needed, e.g. Night Cafe with drunken young person needing help, this should be provided by someone of the same sex).
- Lend or borrow money or other significant items of property.
- Give or receive gifts of any significant value (i.e. over approximately £5).
- Take children or young people to your home, unless arranged with the parents and other adults will be present.
- Give lifts to any child or young person when you are alone in the car.

(In cases of emergency, when it is necessary to take a young person in your car, always ensure there is someone else with you. Inform the parent or carer as soon as possible and make arrangements to meet them as appropriate).

- Investigate disclosures or allegations of child abuse individually rather than follow the flowchart in Appendix B.

Contact with young people via social media, the internet and mobile phones

Generally, with Social Media:

- Common sense needs to be applied.
- Never do anything that does not have some form of record which holds you accountable and could be referred to if necessary.
- Don't do anything which is hidden or private via these media.
- If you aren't sure, best to be safe, check with Safeguarding team first.

Photographs

When taking someone's photo or film, their permission to do so must first be sought and there must be an option of not having it in keeping with GDPR guidelines.

If a child's photo is to be taken, his or her parent or carer must give written consent.

Consent must also be obtained from the person or a child's parent/carer for where it is to be published, for example: wall of the church hall, on flyers to advertise an event. Photos should never be published on social media or the internet without consent.

What is abuse?

See cartoon in appendix C

If you have reasons to believe a child is being abused:

Do not delay;

Do not act alone;

Do not start to investigate, this could make matters worse;

Contact the Safeguarding Representative, or one of the church leadership team;

Only discuss the matter with the leader of the group if you wish to have a second opinion; Keep a record of what you have seen or heard and what you have done or said.

If a child discloses to you that he or she has been abused:

DO

DO always treat any allegations extremely seriously and act towards the child as if you believe what they are saying;

DO tell the child they are right to tell you;

DO reassure them that they are not to blame;

DO be honest about your own position, who you have to tell, and why;

DO tell the child what you are doing and when, and keep them up to date with what is happening;

DO take further action; you may be the only person in a position to prevent future abuse. Tell your nominated person immediately (see flow charts attached);

DO make notes as soon as possible (preferably within one hour), writing down exactly what the young person said and when he/she said it;

DO record dates and times of these events and when you made the record. Keep all hand-written notes, even if these are subsequently typed. These notes are to help your memory later and will only be used as formal documents with your permission.

DON'T

Don't make promises you can't keep;

Don't interrogate the child, it is not your job to carry out an investigation, this will be up to the police and social services, who have experience in this;

Don't cast doubt on what the child has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject;

Don't say anything that makes the child feel responsible for the abuse;

Don't do nothing: make sure you tell your nominated Safeguarding person immediately, they will know how to follow this up and where to go for further advice;

Don't appear shocked by what you are told.

Don't ask leading questions or put words in the child's mouth.

Fear puts a lot of people off telling about wrongdoing. Remember, you always have a duty to make sure concerns are reported, then appropriate action can be taken. Tell the nominated person (see flow charts attached). He/she will be able to get further advice and/or refer the situation to social services or the police.

Helpful things to say or show:

I believe you (or show acceptance of what the child says);

I am glad you have told me;

It's not your fault;

I have to tell someone so that you can get the help you need.

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE CHILD,
CONTACT SOCIAL SERVICES OR THE POLICE**

St. Mary's Safeguarding Contact details

Gill Camp	St Mary's Safeguarding Officer	07763 492286	gilliancamp@hotmail.co.uk
Rev'd Gerda van Ommeren	Rector, St Mary's Church	01752 629255	ReverendGerda@outlook.com
Maureen Way	St Mary's Child Advocate	01752 783886	messy@saintmarys.org.uk
Mandy Woodrow	St Mary's Child Advocate	01752 707458	messy@saintmarys.org.uk
	C of E Exeter Safeguarding Team Costa Nassaris James May Rebecca Lane	01392 294969 01392 345910 01392 294975	https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/safeguarding contacts
Devon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)		0345 155 1071	
Social Services Advice and Assessment team	Mon-Fri 8.30-1730	01752 308600	
Out of hours social services	Mon-Fri 1730-2030 weekends and BH	01752 346784	
Police		999	

Appendix A

Volunteer agreement form

St Mary's Tamerton Foliot volunteer agreement form – for voluntary workers with children or vulnerable adults

The PCC is responsible for the acceptance and accreditation of all workers with children or vulnerable adults. Every worker should fill in a copy of this form which should be securely retained by the safeguarding officer.

Full name

Former names

Home address

..... Postcode

Telephone (Home).....(Mobile).....

E-mail address:

Date of birth

Church

Parish

How long have you lived at the above address?.....

If less than 12 months please give the following information:

Previous address

How long there?.....

Name of group (i.e. Messy church)

Where/when they meet

Age range of children/range of vulnerabilities

Person to whom responsible/supervising

(e.g. Youth group leader/church community worker/warden/incumbent)

Work to be undertaken (describe duties and responsibilities in this role)

Have you ever had any safeguarding training? YES/NO

When and who delivered this?

Other relevant training/experience YES/ NO WHEN

Please give details

.....
.....
.....

As part of our safeguarding policy, we will require you to undergo safeguarding training. Are you prepared to undertake appropriate training? Yes/No

(Note: If you decline to undertake initial training or further training, the PCC will be entitled to withdraw your authority to work with children or vulnerable adults.)

As part of our safeguarding policy, we will require you to have a DBS check performed every 3 years.

This is for everyone involved in work with children and vulnerable adults. Even if parents are present, your involvement puts you in a position of trust when you meet children outside of the church setting. Therefore, all involved will be required to have a DBS check.

(If you decline to undertake a DBS you will not be able to work with children or vulnerable adults.)

N.B. All information will be held safely and in confidence, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

Date/month when this role description is to be reviewed

Signed

(by group leader, safe guarding officer or vicar on behalf of the PCC)

To be completed by the worker with children/young people/adults

I have understood the nature of the work I am to do with children/young people.

I have read the safeguarding policy produced by St Marys Church and will comply with it. I understand that it is my duty to protect the children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom I come into contact.

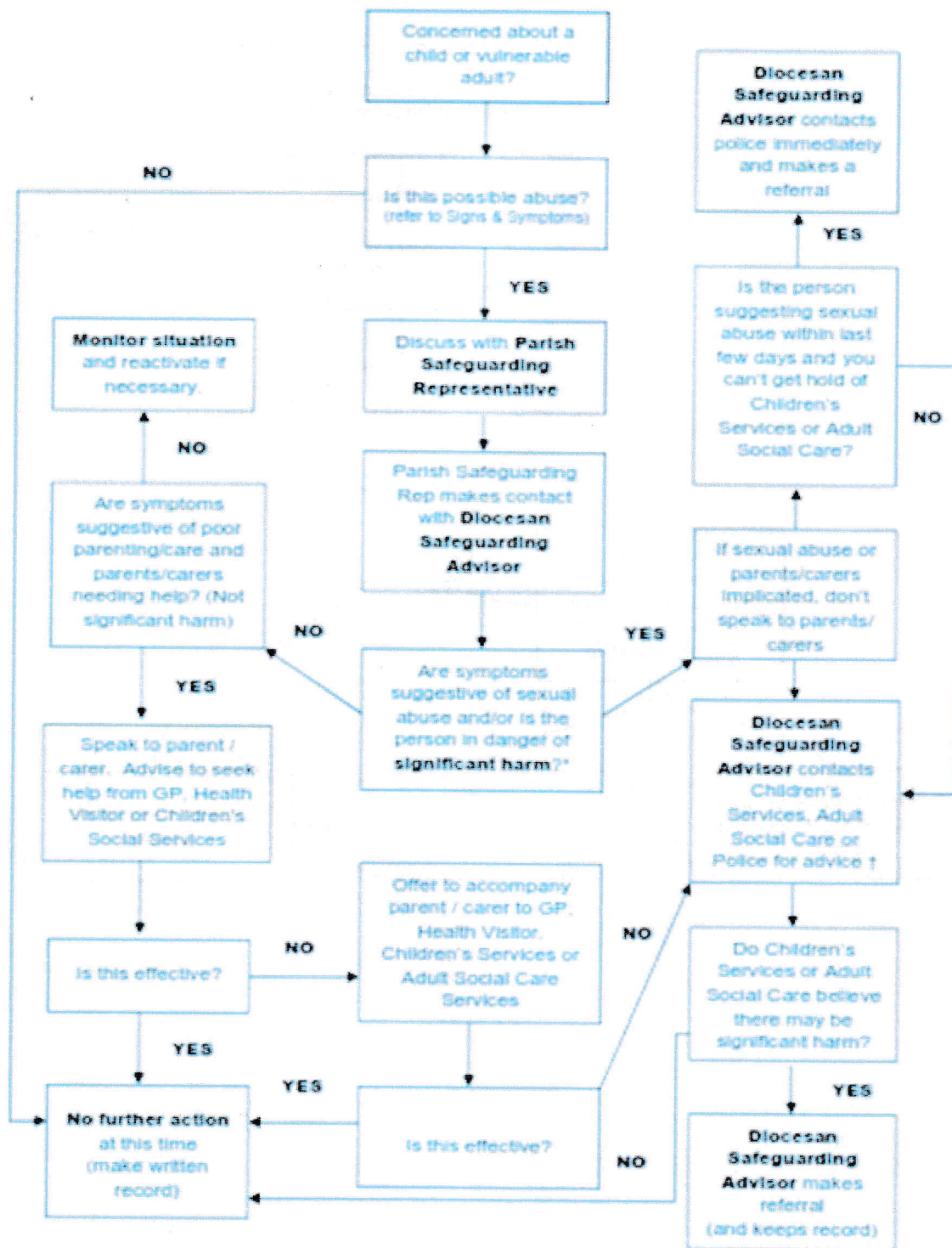
I know what action to take if abuse is discovered or disclosed.

Signed

Date

One copy for the worker and one for the safe guarding representative. If a person's role changes or the job description changes then a new form should be completed.

FLOWCHART FOR RESPONDING TO CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD OR ADULT AT RISK

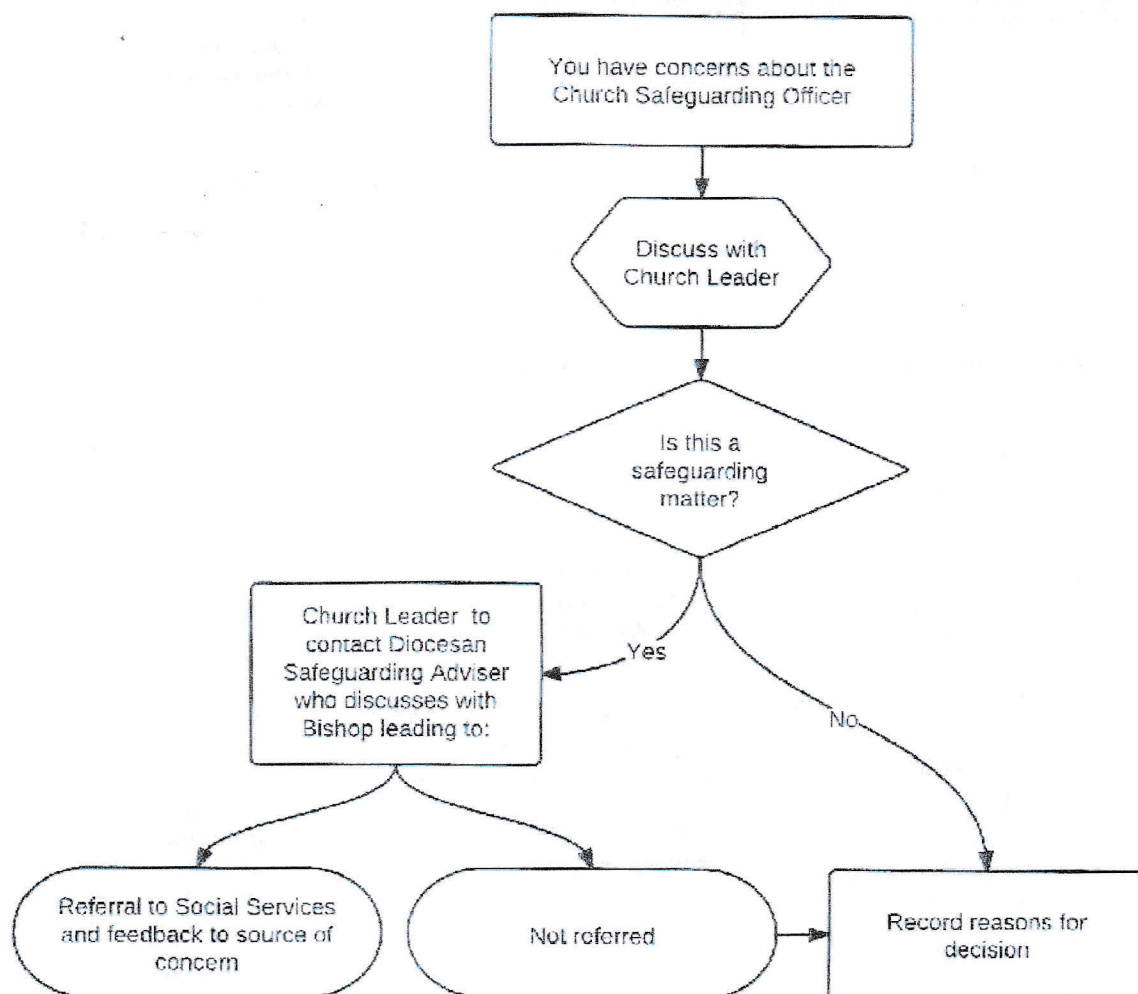


* Refer to safeguarding policy for guidance on 'significant harm'

† Where concerns are about an adult, due attention must be given to any wishes expressed about reporting following an assessment of their ability to make informed decisions and give informed consent.

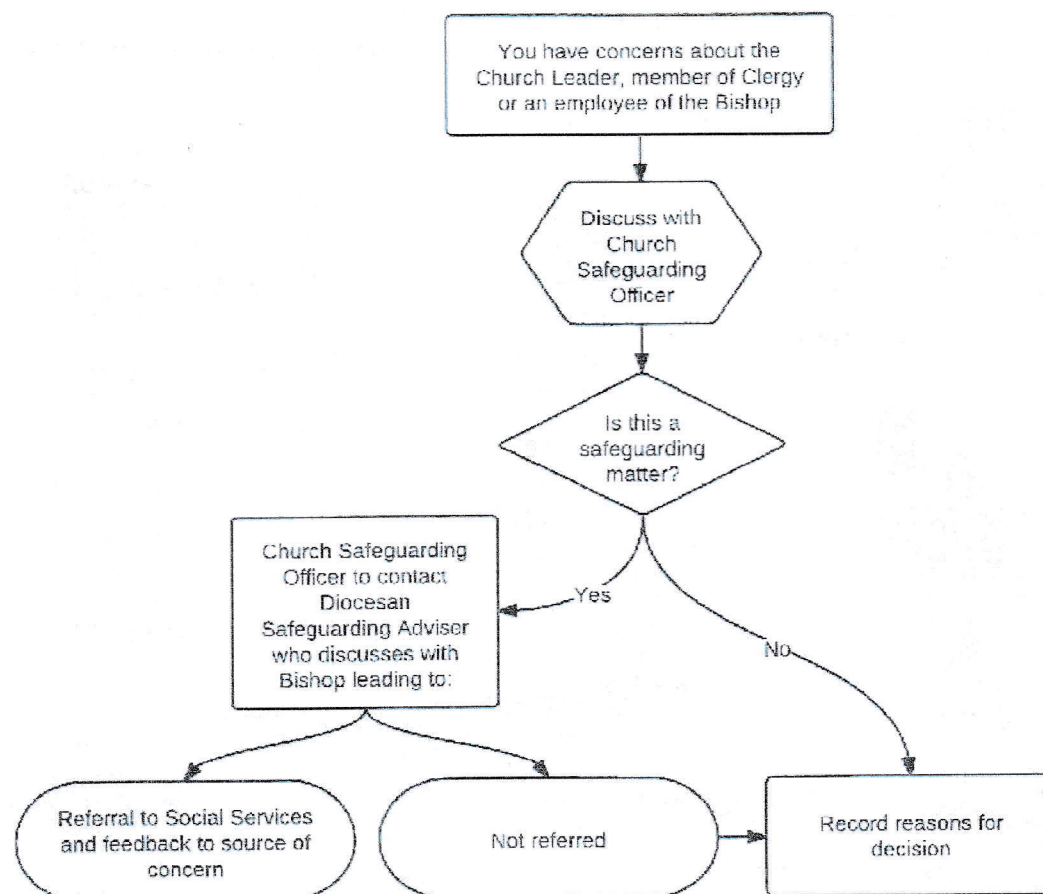
Appendix B (ii)

Those concerned about the church safeguarding officer should follow the protocol below:



Appendix B (iii)

those concerned about the Church Leader should follow the protocol below:



What is CHILD ABUSE?

