

Displaying information about Safeguarding on Parish Websites

We have been contacted by MACSAS, a support group for women and men from Christian backgrounds who have been sexually abused by Ministers or Clergy, as children or as adults. They are a designated core participant in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. They are currently conducting a national survey of church websites, auditing compliance against House of Bishops practice guidance for displaying information about safeguarding.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2018/17-august/news/uk/survivors-of-church-abuse-call-for-clear-safeguarding-information-on-church-websites>

We have recently had a number of queries about what information parishes need to display about safeguarding and in order to assist your parish we have outlined why displaying the information is a requirement. We have also this week sent a newsletter by email with this information. To help make these simple changes there are suggestions below which are a step by step guide.

It has been the House of Bishops policy position that parishes need to display information about their safeguarding arrangements. Roles and Responsibilities 2017, Section 3, issued in October 2017, stated that the parish will display:

- *A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'. This should be signed on behalf of the PCC;*
- *Contact details of the PSO, churchwarden and any other local leaders;*
- Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues e.g. local authority contact details, domestic abuse and key helplines e.g. ChildLine (see the [National Church's website](#) for a template document: 'Safeguarding in parishes - who's who')

In addition, the [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#), published at the end of the year, offered additional guidance that a parish should also '*ensure that safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of the parish website*'. It was left to individual parishes to decide what information to put on their websites, while recognising that not all parishes have one. In this situation parishes may want to offer some information on the National Church's [A Church Near You](#) website. The site has a 'safeguarding' tab at the bottom of every page which will take the user through to a map highlighting diocesan safeguarding details. A page can also be added to your church's profile giving local safeguarding details – a guide to adding and editing pages on A Church Near You can be found [here](#).

We in the Diocesan Safeguarding Team encourage you to take a fresh look at information on your website and noticeboards, ensuring that you are clearly displaying all necessary information on safeguarding arrangements.

We enclose for your information a copy of the Parish Handbook, the contents of which are practice guidance for which you are required to have 'due regard'. If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please do get in touch with the team.

Many thanks,

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team