

The Bishop of Carlisle
The Right Reverend James Newcome
Bishop's House, Ambleside Road,
Keswick CA12 4DD

January 2020

Dear Incumbents and Churchwardens,

Past Cases Review – Ensuring our Churches are Safe

We want to ensure that our churches and church related activities are as safe as possible for everybody and that we have the best possible safeguarding policies and practices. You will be more than aware that along with every other diocese, we have had our share of incidents where clergy and church officers have abused the trust placed in them and harmed others.

The fact that abuse has ever happened within any diocese is a matter of deep shame, so, in order to be certain that we are fulfilling our duty of care, it is important for us to know that all known cases of concern about the behaviour of clergy and church officers towards children and vulnerable adults have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

To help us do this, we are currently undertaking a comprehensive safeguarding review, called the Past Cases Review 2.

The Past Cases Review 2

Following Sir Roger Singleton's independent report in 2018 into the Church of England's handling of its 2007-2009 Past Cases Review, all dioceses are required to show they have independently reviewed all the records they hold of living clergy and church officers who have contact or have had contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This is called Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) and must be completed by the end of 2020.

The 2007-2009 Past Cases Review considered only concerns in respect of children, so although Sir Roger Singleton's team recognised the strengths of Carlisle in following up the outcomes of that review, we are looking at all our records this time to include;

- Concerns for children where clergy or church officers were involved as alleged abusers
- Concerns for vulnerable adults where clergy or church officers were involved as alleged abusers, and this includes,
- Concerns around domestic abuse where clergy or church officers were alleged abusers

What is involved

Every parish together with our Cathedral, the diocesan office at Church House and my own staff at Bishop's House is expected and required to take part in this process. For parishes;

- It is important that all known cases of concern about the behaviour of clergy and church officers towards children and vulnerable adults have been considered and dealt with appropriately. Incumbents, or in the absence of an incumbent, churchwardens, are asked to check that all known instances within their parish(es) both historically and currently have been notified to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA - Charles Proctor), and any which have not are reported immediately. Your Rural Dean will support you in this.

- This is obviously a sensitive task which will require looking at written records held in parishes. If when you do this you are unsure what to do with information you have, consult Charles as DSA. Where, prima facie there is a past concern, details of which are not known, it may be appropriate to consult a previous incumbent where possible. If in doubt, consult the DSA before you do this. In the spirit of the Gospel we all want to protect and care for our children and at a time when the Church's safeguarding policies and practices are under close scrutiny incumbents will recognise the importance of being as sure as possible that all known instances of concern have been addressed.
- Information is being sought on persons who have or have had an office in the Church which brings or brought them into contact with children or with adults at risk of abuse (vulnerable adults). Information is not being requested on worshippers and those attending church activities who do not hold an office in the Church. You do not need to provide details of people subject to a Safeguarding Agreement. Again seek advice from Charles in any instances of doubt.
- You are asked to consider and report all allegations or concerns, not just those fewer incidents which have led (for example) to a Police enquiry or disciplinary action.
- You should consider all allegations and concerns that have arisen in your parish(es), even if you are aware that the person has left the diocese.
- Where written records do not exist you are not asked to start making enquiries of past incumbents, former churchwardens or other church members. Our aim is to show that where a concern has been expressed and recorded, we have taken the right action to follow it up.

This information will need to be returned to my office at Bishop's House by **23 March 2020**. Whether or not you have any information to return, you must return the attached pro-forma to Bishop's House by 23 March. Please write on the outside of your envelope 'PCR2'.

Yours in Christ , *and with thanks ,*

JAMES

PCR2 Declaration & Form 1a

Parish:

Person completing this Declaration:

Role:

I confirm that as of today, all known instances of concern of which I and the Parish Safeguarding Officer are aware which relate to any abusive behaviour of living clergy or church officers towards children or adults, both historically and currently, have been reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. We have completed the table below.

(Where you have no information to put in the table, please strike it through)

Name of individual	Safeguarding concern	Approximate date referred to diocese	Are you as a parish satisfied with the response of the DSA (yes or no)? If no, there will be a follow up to the parish made through the PCR reference group	Are you satisfied that there is no current risk (yes or no)? If no, the DSA will be in touch to offer advice and support