

Safeguarding Policy

The attached Safeguarding Policy, based on the House of Bishops' 'Protecting All God's Children', has been adopted by the PCC of this Church. This policy is notified to and lodged with the York Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and It will be reviewed annually by Yarm St Mary Magdalene PCC

Name of Church

St Mary Magdalene, West Street, Yarm

Safeguarding Representative

The PCC of St Mary Magdalene has appointed the following person to be the Safeguarding Representative to whom any allegation or concerns should be directed.

The nominated person is not normally one of those directly working with children and young people. They will follow the guidelines and procedures for responding to any allegations of abuse.

Mrs Judy Dent

8 Mount Leven Road

Yarm TS15 9RF

Telephone 01642 785276

And for any young person who needs help

The Childline number is 08001111

Safeguarding Policy

1. Principles

- St Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to safeguard and protect the welfare of all children and young people entrusted to their care. It extends this duty of care also to vulnerable adults with whom the community has a relationship
- The PCC has formally adopted the York Diocese Parish Child Protection Policy and Procedures, which is based on the House of Bishops Policy; this is published at <http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/uploads/attachment/439/safeguarding-policy-essentials.pdf>
- The PCC will ensure that all staff, whether paid or unpaid, are selected, trained and checked, using appropriate and safe recruitment processes which include reference to the Disclosure and Barring Service as guided by the Diocese of York.
- The Incumbent, Wardens and PCC will institute, operate and monitor procedures for the management of safeguarding issues, designating a specific Representative with responsibility for these matters; this person will be independent of any direct work with children and young people in which the church community engages.
- The PCC, through the appropriate appointed and independent Representative, will respond without delay to any complaint or allegation made that a child or young person is a risk of, or has suffered, harm, and will cooperate fully with statutory agencies during any investigation they need to make into allegations of abuse or neglect concerning a member of the church community.
- The PCC will undertake these matters because it values and cares for children and young people as individuals in their own right, as well as seeking to support parents and carers.

2. Recruitment and selection

Before any appointment is made, all prospective workers and volunteers will be required to adhere to this policy, to complete an application form where appropriate, including the nomination of independent referees, and to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

3. Safeguarding Procedures

The PCC have designated a Safeguarding Representative and will inform the Diocesan Secretary of this person's details. Any allegation or concern regarding any child or vulnerable adult in church should first be directed to this person, especially where any instance of abuse, harm or neglect is witnessed or suspected.

This person will ensure that any concerns about a child, or the behaviour of an adult in relation to a child/children, are appropriately reported to the statutory agencies and/or to the Archdeacon. The Safeguarding Representative post is subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

The Safeguarding Representative has an independent role in respect of all issues related to safeguarding and child protection. S/he is locally supported in this by the Incumbent and Churchwardens. S/he will manage all details regarding eDBS checks, child or young person focused activities, risk assessments, allegations, disclosures, and follow-up

actions. The Safeguarding Representative is externally and crucially supported by the local Archdeacon, who in turn is supported by the Diocese of York Child Protection Advisor and the Diocesan Youth Advisor.

The Safeguarding Representative will regularly attend appropriate safeguarding/child protection training and ensure that those working with children and young people also take up such training opportunities as appropriate at regular intervals.

The Safeguarding Representative will ensure that all those who work with children know the contact details of those from whom safeguarding/child protection advice can be accessed.

The operation of this policy and related activities will be reviewed annually by the Standing Committee of the PCC with the Safeguarding Representative.

The PCC will support and publicise the position of the Safeguarding Representative within the church and the Parish

4. Acting with vigilance

- All activities in which children and young people are involved, whether on or outwith church premises will be subject to a written risk assessment.
- All activity leaders and relevant PCC Representatives will be sensitive to the possibility of children being at risk and be aware of proper procedures should a child disclose information of abuse or if they suspect abuse to have taken place.
- Safe leader to child ratios will be strictly adhered to; there will be a minimum of two leaders no matter what size group of children. Where specific circumstances apply, the leader will therefore minimise any risk as a matter of priority (eg:

Remain in a public part of the building, ask a parent or other adult in the church to sit in, make parents aware that when travelling on outings an adult may be in sole charge of a car). Cancellation is always an option.

- When deviating from the normal meeting place, proper authorisation from the PCC* will always be sought as well as gaining parent/guardian consent. (*This could be through the Incumbent, Churchwarden or nominated representative).

5. Management of eDBS checks and related information

This will be undertaken as described above in accordance with the published Diocesan guidelines.

6. Definitions of abuse and neglect

There are agreed standard definitions of the terms neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and physical abuse which can lead to a child or young person being at risk of significant harm. There is also a category of abuse linked to a belief in “possession” or “witchcraft”; this latter must be reported immediately to the Archdeacon. It is advised that all members of the PCC and other leaders make themselves familiar with these definitions, all of which are elaborated in the Diocesan Policy, referenced above.

7. Responding to concerns or to disclosure

Anyone who is worried about the behaviour of another member of the congregation or the demeanour of a child has a duty to voice those concerns to the Parish Safeguarding Representative. Any concerns expressed should be respected and taken seriously. The Safeguarding Representative will keep a record of such conversations, as well as all decisions and actions taken. These records will be kept in a secure place and in accordance with Data Protection requirements. The Safeguarding Representative will decide whether a) they need further advice (through the Archdeacon) or b) that they need to make a referral to Children’s Social Services or to the Police. No one other than the statutory authorities (Children’s Social Services or the Police) should ever attempt to investigate such disclosures or concerns.

In the event of a child, young person, or adult disclosing information about abuse, any PCC Representative/leader should remember that the context for the conversation is within the framework set by the PCC. They should thus

- listen respectfully, refrain from probing
- not undertake to keep the information confidential or secret
- make a written record as soon as possible

- report concerns as soon as possible to the Safeguarding Representative, who may in turn involve the Incumbent/Churchwarden/Archdeacon.
- if there is immediate danger, call the Police.

8. Sharing information

Sometimes people worry about information which is apparently imparted “in confidence” in these circumstances. Over many years, guidance developed in the context of work with children and young people is as follows; you should consider the safety and welfare of a child or young person when making decisions on whether to share information about them. Where there is concern that a child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, the child’s safety and welfare must be the overriding consideration. This guidance has the full backing of the Information Commissioner’s office.

9. Yarm PCC Safeguarding Representative 2016

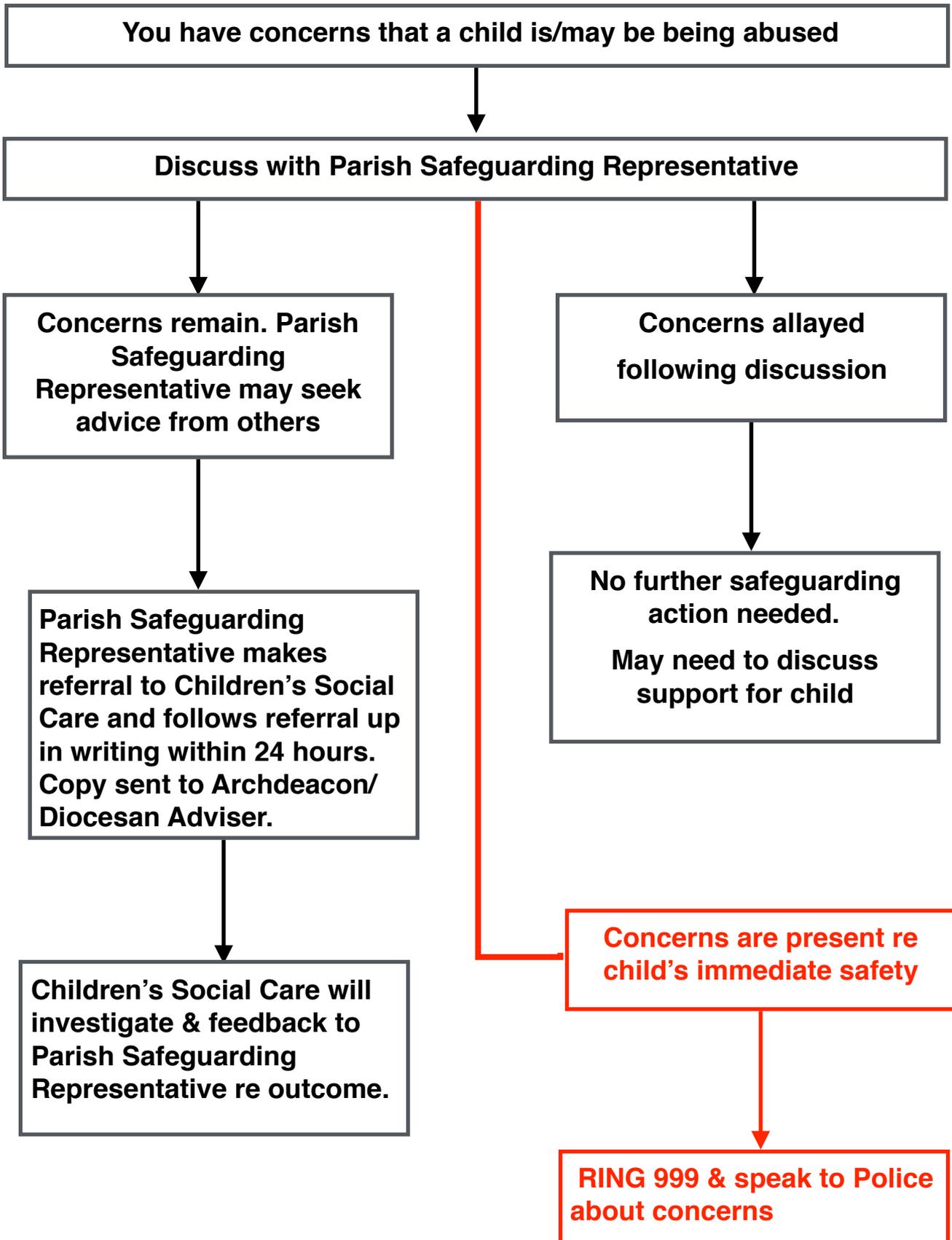
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Yarm TS15 9RF
01642 785276

Judy is supported by Churchwardens, the PCC and

Ven Sam Rushton, the Archdeacon of Cleveland
48 Langbaugh Road,
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TS15 0HL
01642 706095

archdeacon.of.cleveland@yorkdiocese.org

10. Flow chart: What to do if you think a child is being abused



11. Policy Adoption & Review

This policy is adopted by and on behalf of
the PCC of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm Parish Church.

Signed W. J. FORD (PCC Chairman and Rector of Yarm)

Date 14th March 2016