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## Introduction

This guidance is underpinned by the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy Statement Promoting a Safer Church 2017, Ecclesiastical law and Government Guidance such as Working Together 2018 and the Care Act 2014. It replaces section 5 of Protecting All God's Children 2010, including Annex A5 and Guidance Practice 2, and Appendix 3 of Promoting a Safe Church 2006. It replaces section 6 of Protecting All God's Children and Promoting a Safe Church.

One of the key safeguarding policy commitments of the Church of England is that:

*Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or non-current abuse to the notice of the Church will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.*

*All safeguarding work will be recorded in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Practice Guidance.*

*All suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations, that reach the threshold for reporting to the statutory authorities, will be reported via the diocesan safeguarding adviser or designated safeguarding adviser/officer in another church body to the appropriate statutory authorities. This will be done irrespective of the status of the person.*

Who is the guidance for?

This practice guidance is for use by all those who have a role with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This includes diocesan, cathedral and provincial safeguarding advisers<sup>1</sup>, members of the national safeguarding team, archbishops, bishops, deans and their senior staff.

It includes information that applies to parishes but, for ease of reference, this is also covered in the [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#).

It applies to all church bodies<sup>2</sup> and church officers<sup>3</sup>.

Under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, all authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, church wardens and PCCs must have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops. A duty to have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance means that the person under the duty is not free

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<sup>1</sup> The diocesan safeguarding adviser (DSA) is a paid worker who is professionally qualified and experienced in safeguarding practice. They advise and support the diocese on all safeguarding matters. In this guidance, the term may also apply to a provincial safeguarding adviser (PSA) and members of the National Safeguarding Team (NST). In addition, other Church bodies have safeguarding officers, safeguarding leads or a designated/nominated safeguarding person. These roles may either be specialist paid roles, part of a wider paid role or unpaid, as required. For the purpose of this guidance, the term **nominated safeguarding officer** is used. This guidance reinforces that all concerns or allegations need to be reported to and discussed with the DSA.

<sup>2</sup> Church bodies include PCCs, diocesan bodies, cathedrals, religious communities, theological educational institutions and the National Church Institutions. This practice guidance will apply to the whole of the provinces of Canterbury and York (including the diocese in Europe subject to local variations/modifications). There is also an expectation that the guidance will apply to the Channel Islands and Sodor and Man, unless there is specific local legislation in a jurisdiction that would prevent adoption.

<sup>3</sup> A 'church officer' is anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.