

Kings Norton Team Parish Responsibilities of the Parish

Kings Norton Team Parish will:

- adopt and implement a safeguarding children policy and procedures, accepting as a minimum the House of Bishops' Policy on Safeguarding Children but informed by additional diocesan procedures and recommended good practice while being responsive to local parish requirements;
- appoint at least one co-ordinator to work with the incumbent and the parochial church council (PCC) to implement policy and procedures. The co-ordinator must ensure that any concerns about a child or the behaviour of an adult are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the diocesan safeguarding children adviser. It may be appropriate for this co-ordinator to be someone without other pastoral responsibility for children in the parish. The coordinator should either be a member of the PCC or have the right to attend the council and should report at least annually on the implementation of the policy within the parish;

In the Diocese of Birmingham it is proposed that a Parish Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator be appointed – see role of Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

- consider appointing a person, who may be different from the co-ordinator, to be a children's advocate. This should be someone whom children know they could talk to about any problems, if they so wish. This can be useful if the co-ordinator is not someone whom children know personally;
- display in church premises where children's activities take place the contact details of the coordinator or children's advocate, along with the 'Childline' and 'Parentline Plus' telephone numbers;
- ensure that all those authorised to work with children are appropriately recruited according to safer recruitment practice, and are trained and supported;
- ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children undertaken in the name of the parish;
- review the implementation of the safeguarding children policy, procedures and good practice, at least annually;
- if working within Local Ecumenical Partnerships, agree which denomination or organisation's safeguarding children policy to follow, including where to seek advice in urgent situations. This decision should be ratified both by the bishop and other appropriate church leaders in the partnership;
- In the event of a specific safeguarding concern, ensure that all the Local Ecumenical Partnership partners are notified.