

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NURSES ENGLAND AND WALES POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Produced by The Association of Catholic Nurses England and Wales for submission to CICIAMS International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Assistants and to the Dicastery for the Laity , Family and Life, Vatican City .

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POLICY STATEMENT: The Association of Catholic Nurses believes that no child or vulnerable adult should experience abuse or harm. This policy is intended to provide information and guidance to all of our members on how to respond in safeguarding situations. Child Protection is a global issue that has sometimes been understood differently across world cultures particularly around issues such as forced marriage ,domestic abuse ,FGM , sexual exploitation and types of physical chastisement . The World Health Organization (2020) describes child maltreatment as ‘the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Abuse of adults can include physical abuse including domestic abuse ,sexual abuse and psychological abuse ,financial abuse, modern slavery , institutional abuse and neglect.

SCOPE: The policy applies to Members of the Association of Catholic Nurses England and Wales when present, as members, in any Catholic organization or other Catholic Church setting where an incident or disclosure of abuse occurs.

POLICY PROCEDURES: FOR RESPONDING TO WITNESSING OR RECEIVING A DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE OF A MINOR OR VULNERABLE ADULT IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH SETTING

1.1 The Association of Catholic Nurses of England and Wales does not employ staff but recognizes the need for members to be aware of necessary actions should an incident or disclosure of abuse occur where members are assembled or present in any Catholic organization or Catholic Church setting .

1.2 All members of The Association of Catholic Nurses as practising or retired nursing professionals need to be aware of and must adhere to the UK statutory frameworks around Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults (Appendix 1) .

1.3 All members of the Association also need to be aware of Safeguarding inquiries that have taken place in the Catholic Church leading to development Catholic Church Guidelines on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults based on UK statutory frameworks that need to be applied when abuse is observed or disclosed in Catholic Church settings (Appendix2)

1.4. Confidentiality must be protected at all times but when information is shared of a safeguarding concern it is imperative that protection of children and vulnerable adults becomes paramount and information can then be shared , preferably with consent , on a need to know basis only with relevant agencies involved with the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Procedures for handling disclosure of abuse in a Catholic Church setting are outlined in Appendix 3.

1.5 Any member who witnesses or is given information of a safeguarding nature where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention should call the emergency services on 999. In other situations , not of immediate danger but raising significant concerns of possible or actual abuse that need investigating a referral will be needed to the local Social Services Department.(See appendix 3) .

1.6 When any referral is made to the emergency services or is considered necessary to Social Services from an incident or disclosure of abuse occurring in a Catholic Church organization or setting (see Appendix 3), or should any member wish to report any other safeguarding concerns to the Catholic Church , past or present the member should inform the local Diocesan Safeguarding Office by telephone followed by email (appendix 4).If the Diocesan Office is closed inform the Department directly by email.

1.7 Members should also inform The Association of Catholic Nurses by email to catholicnurses@msn.com that a referral has been made. Confidential information should not be included in this email unless it directly involves a member as a perpetrator or victim of abuse.

1.8 When confidential information has been shared with relevant agencies the referrer should retain the email receipt of referral from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office (and statutory services where applicable) as evidence of referral and then delete any other confidential information from their personal device unless instructed by these agencies not to do so .

APPENDIX 1. UNDERSTANDING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS AND STATUTORY FRAMEWORKS ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

In the UK much of our safeguarding children framework is based on the Children Act (1989) which reinforces the paramountcy of the child in any situation of concern. This is to ensure that the voice of the child is heard and that child's safety, wellbeing, wishes and needs are recognized and given priority when any decisions are made about the child. There have been 2 subsequent Acts, The Children's Act 2004 and Children and Families Act 2014 which have further developed the main principles of the Children Act 1989 in addition to the Childcare Act 2006 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which have recognized the vulnerability of any child in any care situation and the need to ensure protection still does extend to children in care situations. Following the Children Act 1989 a 'Working Together under the Children Act 1989' was published 1991 and reviewed and republished since 1999 as 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' with the last publication date being 2018. Whilst the Children Acts focus on statutory provision to protect the needs of the child/children the Working Together documents highlights the need for effective working between professional agencies but also recognizes that safeguarding children is everybody's business in which any member of the public, of any organization, and any family member has a paramountcy duty of care to the child in any situation where there is a safeguarding concern. Safeguarding legislation and procedures normally relate to unborn where there are concerns for safety of the baby to age 18 years but if a young adult is a care leaver or has special educational needs or disability child protection legislation will extend to protect them until age 25 years. The Mental Capacity Act (2005) Care Act (2014) and Liberty Protection Standards (2018) exist to protect adults who lack capacity or are unable to care for themselves. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) was passed for screening procedures to prevent people unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults from gaining access to them through their work. Since 1 December 2012 the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has managed these screening procedures and organisations have a legal obligation to refer relevant information' to this service. (SCIE, 2020a),

APPENDIX 2 CHURCH INQUIRY AND FRAMEWORKS ON PROTECTING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Nolan Report in the UK on managing disclosures of child sex abuse by clergy in the Catholic Church has stated 'The Church recognises the personal dignity and rights of children, towards whom it has a special responsibility and a duty of care. The Church, and individual members of it, undertakes to do all in their power to create a safe environment for children and to prevent their physical, sexual or emotional abuse. The Church authorities will liaise closely with statutory agencies to ensure that any allegations of abuse are promptly and properly dealt with, victims supported and perpetrators held to account.' (Nolan Report 2001). The Cumberlege Report (2007) that reviewed the implementation of safeguarding procedures based on the findings of the Nolan Report informs many current policies and guidelines of the Catholic Church England and Wales and has stated 'We have already commented that many of the prerequisites for effective safeguarding are already in place in the Church, in the form of nationally agreed policies and procedures (though there is still more to do). But these are just the foundations for creating a safe environment. The really difficult challenge now facing the Church is to use these as a springboard for changing how people at all levels think about safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, so they come to behave in ways that help to prevent abuse and harm from occurring..' The Nolan Report and Cumberlege Report both remind us of the need for protection of vulnerable adults who may be sick, disabled, aged or victims, within families or organizations of a range of forms of domestic or other inter-personal abuse, which may or may not be related to cultural patterns or expectations or poor mental health or substance abuse.

Pope Francis in 'Amoris Laetitia' (2016) upholds the sanctity of marriage as the most stable environment to raise children in which 'parents are in some sense the foundations of the home, the children are like the living stones' but on addressing pastoral care of families reminds us of a modern global changing character of family life that requires the Church and all individuals within the Church to be more inclusive and provide welcome and stability to families where family breakdown or divorce or non-marriage has occurred especially as exclusion of these families inevitably impacts not only on individual parents but also on children existing within these relationships. Children are living witnesses not only of their own experiences but also of how they see their parent(s) treated in any situation. When working with safeguarding children we need to be mindful of the long term emotional harm that occurs in individual victims of domestic or other abuse or injustice and in children who have experienced or witnessed abuse or neglect.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence in the UK (SCIE, 2020b) states 'Churches and faith-based groups play a vital role in the lives of many children, young people and adults. People who contribute to the life of faith-based communities and places of worship have a role to play in keeping people safe. They also play a vital role in responding effectively and compassionately when someone comes forward to share concerns or disclose

abuse'. On making individuals and families who have felt isolated or marginalised feel welcome in the Catholic Church The 'Everybody's Welcome is a collaborative initiative of the Catholic Church in England and Wales (CBCEW,2020) encourages parishes to support ' the development of welcoming, family-sensitive, friendly parishes and offer understanding, friendship and support to all, be a source of help in times of need, help everyone in the parish feel that they belong there and encourage and celebrate all family life whether married, widowed, single, divorced, separated, with children or without' highlighting that we are all created in 'the image of God' and as such are all members of His family.

REFERENCES

CBCEW(2020) Marriage and Family Life – Everybody’s Welcome , <https://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/what-we-do/everybodys-welcome>
 CUMBERLEGE, J (2007) Cumberlege Report . Safeguarding with Confidence , <http://catholicnurses.org.uk/CUMBERLEGE%20REPORT.pdf>
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 POPE FRANCIS 1 (2016)AmorisLaetitia , http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazioneap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html SCIE (2020a)Key legislation - Legislation protecting vulnerable people from abuse <https://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide15/legislation/otherlegislation/vulnerablepeoplelegislation.asp> SCIE(2020b)Deprivation of Liberty Standards , <https://www.scie.org.uk/mca-directory/dols.asp>
 SCIE(2020b) Safeguarding People in Faith Communities<https://www.scie.org.uk/mca-directory/dols.asps> ,accessed online 11/01/2020<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/faith-groups/communities>.
 WHO (2020) Child Maltreatment ,<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment>
WEBSITE The Association of Catholic Nurses England and Wales website contains more information on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults www.catholicnurses.org.uk/childprotection.html

APPENDIX 3 GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING A DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE IN CATHOLIC CHURCH SETTINGS

<p>DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take it seriously • Be honest with the child • Be clear that in order to help the child you cannot keep the information to yourself • Explain to the child what will happen next and reassure that you will support them. • Reassure the child that he or she is right to tell. • Consult and get support. • Write down immediately what the child has said. • Record the time and date and your signature. 	<p>DON'T</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show shock • Try to silence or ask leading questions • Keep the secret • Jump to conclusions • Alert the perpetrator • Make promises you cannot keep.
<p>REPORT to the Diocesan Child Protection Co-ordinator and either you or the Child Protection Co-ordinator must also ensure the incident is reported to the local Social Services or Police Department . Make sure there is some clear agreement who is to perform the referral to the statutory agencies .</p>	<p>HOW TO RESPOND Try to avoid asking what? why? how? when? where? who? are you sure? why didn't you say that before ? or saying 'I can't believe it , I am shocked'. DO TRY TO REASSURE THE CHILD THAT HE OR SHE WAS RIGHT TO TELL YOU</p>

APPENDIX 4. CATHOLIC CHURCH ENGLAND & WALES DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

Arundel and Brighton <https://www.dabnet.org/ViewArticle/?section=PastoralLife&name=Safeguarding&id=144>
 Birmingham <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/pages/faqs/category/safeguarding>
 Brentwood <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/safeguarding/>
 Cardiff <https://rcadc.org/directory/commissions-committees/safeguarding-advisory-commission/>
 Clifton <https://cliftondiocese.com/departments/safeguarding/>
 East Anglia <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding-contact-us/>
 Hallam <https://hallam-diocese.com/safeguarding/>
 H&N <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/safeguardingdio/safeguardingcontacts.php>
 Lancaster <http://www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk/useful-information/safeguarding-in-the-diocese/>
 Leeds <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/safeguarding/contact/>
 Liverpool <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/safeguarding>
 Minervia <https://www.menevia.org/safeguarding/>
 Middlesbrough <https://middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding/>
 Northampton <https://northamptondiocese.org/safeguarding/>
 Nottingham <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/safeguarding/resources-safeguarding-representatives>
 Plymouth <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/the-diocese/how-we-work/vicariate-for-safeguarding-and-pastoral-care/>
 Portsmouth <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding>
 Salford <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/safeguarding/>
 Shrewsbury <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/safeguarding>
 Southwark <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/safeguarding.html>
 Westminster <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding-and-the-catholic-church-in-england-and-wales/>
 Wrexham <https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/safeguarding>

More information available on Catholic Bishop’s England and wales Conference website

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/safeguarding/>