

02. WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?



Safeguarding is defined within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 as 'preventing and protecting children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers'.

Safeguarding is also about an ethos, a quality of life. Regardless of whether we are young or old, we all have the right to:

- Live our own lives, free from harm or fear.
- Be treated with respect.
- Make our own choices and decisions.
- Speak up for ourselves and be listened to.

Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY** and we all have a responsibility to respond if there are concerns that a child or adult at risk,

- is experiencing abuse or neglect.
- has experienced abuse or neglect.
- or is likely to be at risk of abuse or neglect.

This is not a matter of personal choice!

Why should we report any concerns we have?

- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 states that you have a responsibility to report concerns. Many child and adult abuse cases have shown that a failure to act has led to serious injury or the death of the child or adult. The information you are reporting could be vital in preventing further abuse. Other people may not have the information you have.

Safeguarding includes having a culture of informed vigilance, because abuse can happen in any setting.

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Safeguarding is absolutely central to what genuine Christian communities are. The Church in Wales is committed to fostering an environment in which everyone is able to participate in the life of the church in safety.

Our safeguarding policy isn't just there for when things go wrong: it also helps to create a culture of wellbeing to ensure things go right. It applies to everyone within the Church, including all those in a position of trust. From a church service to a food bank, from a summer fete to a pastoral visit, all of us are bound to this safeguarding policy and vision.

So who are these people in a position of trust?

A person is in a position of trust if the work they do, or the nature of the service they provide, means that they:

- are likely to have contact with children or adults at risk as part of their employment or voluntary work.
- have a position of trust, authority, power or influence over a child or adult at risk (as perceived by them).
- are expected to safeguard (and not to act against) the interests of another person.

You can see the policy on the Church in Wales website:

www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/safeguarding/

We have a responsibility to ensure a safe church, because...
safeguarding is not something the church does, it is something the church is.

If it isn't safe, it isn't Church.