



# You will be listened to.

*Help and information  
on how to report abuse  
within the Church.*

# *Making our churches safe places to worship*

All forms of abuse are a betrayal of trust and a misuse of relationships and power. Regrettably, Church institutions have been places where sexual, physical and emotional abuse have taken place but those affected have sometimes felt unable to speak out for fear of not being listened to.

You will be listened to. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team is a team of experts dedicated to supporting those affected by abuse and helping them to explore the options available to them, whether that be professional counselling, pursuing legal action against an abuser or just having someone independent to talk to.

This leaflet shows how the process of reporting abuse works in the hope that you or anyone you know that has been affected by abuse within the Church will have the confidence to speak out.

## *What is abuse?*

Abuse takes many forms but at its core is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by one or more persons.

Abuse can be:

### **Exploitation**

**Physical abuse**

**Domestic violence or abuse**

**Sexual abuse**

**Emotional or psychological abuse**

**Financial abuse or material abuse**

### **Modern slavery**

**Discriminatory abuse**

**Organisational or institutional abuse**

**Neglect or acts of omission**

**Self-neglect**

**Spiritual abuse**

People who have been abused often do not realise they have been abused until much later in life, or feel powerless to come forward.

However by reporting abuse you are taking control, beginning the process of healing and are also helping to protect others.

# *Reporting abuse - what can you expect from us?*

If you have experienced abuse in a church-based context, then the Diocesan Safeguarding Team is here to help you.

We recognise how hard it is to discuss events that are sometimes buried in our minds and cause pain. You are not to blame for what happened.

## **1 Share your experience:**

■ *Contact our Diocesan Safeguarding Team to share your experience. Contact Ruth Rogan on 07825 167 016 or by email [r.rogan@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:r.rogan@newcastle.anglican.org), or Andrew Grant on 07741 633 670 or [a.grant@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:a.grant@newcastle.anglican.org)*

## **2 Speak to us:**

■ *If you feel comfortable then you will be encouraged to meet face-to-face with someone from the Safeguarding Team to discuss your experiences in more detail. This can be done at our offices in North Shields or at a place where you feel most comfortable.*

## **3 Be listened to:**

■ *You will be offered access to an Authorised Listener. Our Listeners are professionals with a therapeutic background who understand the Church environment and will help you to work out what further support you need and what action you can take.*

## **4 Take action:**

■ *We can support you in reporting your experiences to the police if that is what you want to do. Speaking to the police can feel like a difficult or overwhelming experience so we can talk you through the process and support you every step of the way.*

## **5 Confidentiality & care:**

■ *Throughout the process your experiences will be handled with complete confidentiality and you will be in complete control. We will discuss with you and keep you informed of any action we take on your behalf.*

# *How to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team*

**Carol Butler**

**T: 07825 167016**

**E: [c.butler@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:c.butler@newcastle.anglican.org)**

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North Shields  
NE29 6HS

Information can be found on our website:  
[www.newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding](http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding)

## *Other sources of help*

Some people who have been abused in a Church setting might feel uncomfortable contacting a Church institution. That should not stop you sharing your experiences and there are other organisations that can help.

### **NAPAC**

(National Association for  
People Abused in Childhood)  
Helpline: 0808 801 0331  
[www.napac.org.uk](http://www.napac.org.uk)

### **The Survivors Trust**

Helpline: 01788 550554  
[www.thesurvivorstrust.org](http://www.thesurvivorstrust.org)

### **One in Four**

(Specialist trauma counselling support for  
individuals and group workshops for survivors  
of sexual abuse and trauma)  
Helpline: 020 8007 2112  
[www.oneinfour.org.uk](http://www.oneinfour.org.uk)

### **Victim Support**

(An independent charity offering free, confidential  
support to people affected by crime and traumatic  
incidents)  
Supportline: 08 08 16 89 111  
Next Generation Text: add 18001 before any of their  
phone numbers  
[www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

