

PARISH SAFEGUARDING UPDATE number 3

+ *Dear Parishioners,*

I would like to update you where we are at regarding the Independent Safeguarding Audit which was completed in June and the Parish Safeguarding Action Plan that is now being implemented as a result. This is the third bulletin update on Safeguarding in the Parish.

As part of this Safeguarding journey and as a way of ensuring that we are keeping Safeguarding best practice at the heart of parish life, we asked an independent Consultant, Janice Haynes, to complete an audit on our parish practices and policies. I would like to now update you on what we have learnt from that process and what we are implementing as a result.

The Auditor, Janice Haynes, stated what is working well:-

- Since October 2018 the new Parish Safeguarding Representative, Jim Welsh, is now in the process of implementing the Audit.
- The approach to Safeguarding in the Parish is increasingly pro-active; the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is a key priority for the Parish.
- Since January 2019, the Parish Secretary's job specification includes Safeguarding Administrative support.
- For groups using our premises, the Auditor found that acceptable Safeguarding standards were being met.
- The Parish is committed to regular updates on Safeguarding in the Weekly Bulletin in a bid raise this profile.
- Both the Parish Priest and the Parish Secretary and 2 Parish Safeguarding Representatives (Susanne Nunn, started in May 2019 as our 2nd Parish Safeguarding Representative) are working as a team to ensure all aspects of compliance are met.
- The recruitment of a 3rd Parish Safeguarding Representative remains a key priority.

Areas for Development

Altar Servers vesting for Mass

- Parents of servers are being asked to volunteer to take on the role of having an adult present before and after Mass. The auditor pointed out that there needs to be an adult presence for servers 10 minutes before and after Mass.

The Open Access of the Parish Centre and Corridor

- The Parish Centre and corridor are accessed by a wide variety of people. We ask you as parishioners and parents to support the endeavour to keep the site open for the safe use of all. This involves everybody being vigilant and reporting any concerns immediately to the parish office. The Auditor raised the openness of the Parish Centre as an area of ongoing concern.

The Parish Team together with the Parish Safeguarding Representatives are continually monitoring and reviewing the use of the Parish Centre and corridor. We are committed to ensuring that any issues/concerns that arise in relation to Safeguarding are addressed swiftly.

St Benedict's Ealing Abbey Parish is part of the Diocese of Westminster. All decisions and actions are CSAS compliant and in accordance with the policies and protocols of the Diocese.

Over three weeks ago the Diocesan Central Safeguarding Team visited the Parish to assess safeguarding standards and good practice. It was a positive and constructive meeting. The Diocesan Central Safeguarding Team recognized that a significant amount of work has been undertaken and identified further points to work on.

Listening & Supporting Those Affected by Abuse

Ealing Abbey Parish is committed to supporting, in any way possible, anyone who has suffered abuse or has been affected by it. We always encourage people to come forward and report any form of abuse, to the authorities. We are here to listen and will always try to support them in any way we can

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact the Parish Safeguarding Representatives, **Jim Welsh** or **Susanne Nunn** by email:-

ealingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

or ealingsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

or myself Fr. Ambrose via

parishoffice@ealingabbey.org tel: 020 8862 2160

Fr Ambrose McCambridge OSB, *Parish Priest*, 10th November 2019

SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN

Autumn 2019

DBS Checks

- All volunteers working with children and adults at risk, to be DBS checked and updates completed
- DBS surgeries to be held by Safeguarding Representatives throughout the year.

Safeguarding Records

- To have up to date comprehensive records on paid and volunteer staff.
- To keep a register of all volunteers requiring a DBS and other volunteers.
- To keep minutes of Safeguarding Meetings.
- To keep up to date records of all training and safeguarding workshops.

Communications

- Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs) to be in weekly contact with the Parish Priest.
- Safeguarding Representatives to attend Safeguarding meetings with Monastery, Parish, Counselling Service, School and Choir. Cross site safeguarding committee.
- Safeguarding Representatives to attend Deanery meetings for Safeguarding Representatives.
-

- Safeguarding Representatives to present report to Parish Team twice per year.
- Safeguarding Representatives to print out an up to date report for the Safeguarding Committee termly.

Safer Recruitment

- All new staff to have safeguarding interview with normal vetting procedures (paid & voluntary).
- The Safeguarding Code of Conduct to be agreed and signed by all volunteers.

Quality Assurance

- All activities to be monitored by the Safeguarding Representatives, Parish Priest, Catechetical Coordinator and leaders of voluntary groups.
- A Safeguarding Committee to be set up to oversee the work of the Safeguarding Representatives and all safeguarding aspects of the work of the parish.
- Focus groups to be held mid-year, to evaluate practice, (children and vulnerable adults).
- Online survey to be set up for parishioners.
- The profile of safeguarding in the parish to be raised via newsletter, parish meetings, government website, safeguarding literature and EduCare completion by parishioners.
- Future Audit as a Quality Assurance protocol.

Diocese of Westminster

- To work closely with the Diocese to implement CSAS policies and ensure compliance.
- Safeguarding Representatives to attend training arranged by the Diocese
- Safeguarding Support Officer (from Diocese) to make a site visit to the parish.
- Diocese to be apprised of all safeguarding developments at St. Benedict's parish.