



United Benefice of Sileby, Cossington & Seagrave

## Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy was first agreed at the meeting of the Benefice Council on 8 July 2013, acting on behalf of the Parochial Church Councils of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave and then adopted by each PCC. The policy was re-affirmed, using the Diocesan Model Safeguarding Children's Policy and subsequent changes incorporated into this policy, on 1st June 2018.

*In this document each reference to Benefice Council indicates that this body is acting on behalf of the PCCs of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave.*

The Benefice Council adopts the Safeguarding Policy Statement for children, young people and adults "Promoting a Safer Church" and commits to the implementation of this policy and to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of the children and young people in its care.

### **A. BENEFICE COUNCIL COMMITMENTS**

Benefice Council:

- ▶ has appointed Marty Melody as Benefice Child Safeguarding Coordinator for the benefice to work with the incumbent and the PCCs to implement policy and procedures. The Coordinator will 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 Adviser or relevant Archdeacon. The Coordinator, who is not a member of Benefice Council or any of the PCCs, has the right to attend any of their meetings and will report to Benefice Council in the first half of each year on the implementation of this policy using the Diocese of Leicester's "Annual Report Template".
- ▶ has authorised Marty Melody to hold information about those who work with children including details of their DBS disclosures.
- ▶ has nominated an "Independent Person" for the Benefice of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave to whom children may talk about any problems, if they so wish. The Independent Person is someone who is accessible to the children and who does not have responsibilities for children within the benefice.
- ▶ will display in each church building, in both halls of the St Mary's Centre in Sileby and in any other premises where children's activities take place the contact details of the Coordinator and Independent Person, along with the Childline and Parentline telephone numbers and web addresses. A copy of this statement of policy will also be displayed in these places.
- ▶ will ensure that all those authorised to work with children or who are in a position of authority are appropriately recruited according to safer recruitment practice in line with Church of England national policy, and are trained, resourced and supported. This will

include ensuring they have access to all relevant policies (including this policy) and Practice Guidance produced by the Church of England or the Diocese of Leicester.

- ▶ will ensure that only authorized people work with children and that all work with children is carried out within appropriate accountability structures.
- ▶ will ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children undertaken in the name of any of the parishes.
- ▶ will review the implementation of the child protection policy, procedures and practices at least annually.
- ▶ will work to create a culture of informed vigilance which takes children seriously.
- ▶ will pay particular attention to children with special needs and those from ethnic minorities to ensure their full integration and protection within the church community.
- ▶ will ensure that those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
- ▶ will ensure that a health and safety policy and the appropriate procedures and risk assessments are in place for each parish and that these are reviewed periodically.
- ▶ will act without delay on allegations or suspicions of abuse using the procedure laid down by the Diocese of Leicester.
- ▶ will respond without delay to any complaints received regarding children's work or the safeguarding of children or the behaviour of an adult.
- ▶ will ensure that all new PCC members have access to this policy and the Diocese of Leicester Child Protection Handbook so that they are aware of their responsibilities.
- ▶ will cooperate fully with investigations by statutory agencies and will not conduct its own investigations except with the prior approval of statutory agencies.
- ▶ will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- ▶ will care for and supervise any member of the church community known to have offended against a child while maintaining appropriate confidentiality.
- ▶ will ensure that those hiring the premises of any of the three PCCs for activities involving children or young people agree to commit to good safeguarding practice.

## **B. INDEPENDENT PERSON AND DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER**

Our Independent Person to whom children, youth workers and volunteers may talk if they wish about any concerns is:

Heather Hall, 6 Rosslyn Avenue, Mountsorrel, LE12 7UQ.  
T: 0116 2375587. E: [hhall989@btinternet.com](mailto:hhall989@btinternet.com)

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is:

Rachael Spiers, St. Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ.  
T: 0116 261 5341. E: [rachael.spiers@leccofe.org](mailto:rachael.spiers@leccofe.org).

This policy statement will be renewed annually and progress in carrying it out will be monitored by the Child Safeguarding Coordinator who is Marty Melody. She may be

contacted at 33 Highgate Road, Sileby, LE12 7PN. T: 07939 148140. E: marty.melody@hotmail.com

This statement was agreed by Benefice Council on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The Diocesan Model Safeguarding Children's Policy was used and subsequent changes incorporated into this policy. It was subsequently signed by a Church Warden of each parish church acting on behalf of their PCC.

Signed: ..... (Incumbent) Date: .....

Signed: ..... (Church warden of Sileby) Date: .....

Signed: ..... (Church warden of Cossington) Date: .....

Signed: ..... (Church warden of Seagrave) Date: .....