Parish Volunteer Role: Benefice Safeguarding Officer (BSO)

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding representative, Benefice safeguarding officer or the Diocesan safeguarding team

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

* Treat individuals with respect
* Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
* Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
* Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
* Ensure their welfare and safety
* The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
* Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

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| **Role** | Benefice Safeguarding Officer (BSO) |
| **Responsible to** | Incumbent  |
| **Key Responsibilities of the Role (tasks to be undertaken)** |
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| *A lay person with good pastoral and organisational skills and experience of working with children/young people or vulnerable adults. (This should not be the incumbent or his/her partner)* |
| *As a volunteer:* |
| * To work closely with the incumbent to advise within the parish on all safeguarding matters relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults
* Receive, with the incumbent, any concerns about children or adults in the benefice and make sure that the proper advice is sought and proper referrals are made
* Report all matters relating to concerns and allegations against church officers, in liaison with the incumbent, to the Diocesan Safeguarding team who will liaise with the statutory agencies as required. **Concerns about an incumbent should be raised directly with the Diocese Safeguarding team**
* Ensure that any ex-offenders with offences against children or vulnerable adults known to be in the church community are notified to the Diocesan Safeguarding team and contribute to managing Safeguarding Agreements
* Promote safer practices in all activities and make any recommendations required, taking into account the particular arrangements of the parish
* Seek to ensure that Safer Recruitment practice is followed, with the support of the diocese (Read and implement any other relevant PCC policies or guidelines)
* Attend diocesan safeguarding training at least every three years
* Maintain safeguarding records
* Complete national, diocesan and parish safeguarding self-assessments as required
* Contribute to the annual review of parish safeguarding arrangements
* The BSO should regularly report on safeguarding in the parish. (Safeguarding should be a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) the PCC will provide an annual report in relation to safeguarding.)
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| The BSO may also be responsible for: * Being the Children’s and Vulnerable Adult Advocate
* Being the parish or benefice DBS Administrator / Lead Recruiter
* Supporting other church officers who work with children or vulnerable adults
* Providing or arranging provision of safeguarding training for parish workers, both volunteers and paid staff
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| **Any arrangements for induction, training & support**  |
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| * Induction program with the incumbent
* Daily access to ministry team and Senior leadership team
* Regular meetings with Incumbent (regularity to be determined)
* Attend Diocesan safeguarding training
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| * Attend Safer Recruitment training
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| * Safeguarding training every three years
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| **Any practical arrangements relevant to the role**  |

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| * Expenses will be covered by the parishes split in accordance with the agreed model for other benefice expenses
* Regular meeting with the incumbent
* Access to Computer and printer in the benefice office
* Option to work from home and choose hours
* Close liaison with Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator
* Close liaison with the Diocesan Safeguarding team
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| **Role to be reviewed** *(insert date)* |

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| **The role is eligible for a criminal record (DBS) check which is renewable every five years** *(insert yes / no)* | Yes |
| **Level of criminal record (DBS) check which is required for this role** |  Enhanced   |
| **Date DBS completed (not to start role until check complete)** |  |